

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 SEPTEMBER 1981

Egypt

Fundamentalists Released--President Anwar as-Sadat is believed to have released Muslim Brotherhood leader 'Umar at-Talmisani as well as another fundamentalist, 'Umar Malti, according to AFP, citing the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH.

Government Reshuffle--MENA reported the issuance of a decree effecting the assignment of six ministers and the elimination of the posts of minister of state for presidential affairs and minister of state for information. Another decree, reported by MENA, appointed six new governors.

Departure of More Soviets--MENA reported the departure of 143 more Soviet experts, bringing the total to date to 694.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that after meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Libyan Brotherhood Bureau Secretary General Salih ad-Daruqi said he had suggested to Al-Wazzan a step toward realizing Libya's offer of an air defense network to Lebanon. Noting that Libya has an agreement with Syria on Lebanon's air defense, he refused to divulge details of the Libyan proposal.

Reporting on the security situation, Beirut radio noted that a car bomb was discovered and deactivated in Western Beirut.

PLO

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met in Beirut with Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov, who delivered an invitation from the Soviet leadership for 'Arafat to visit the Soviet Union.

Jordan

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in an address to the National Consultative Council, broadcast by Amman television, described the U.S.-Israeli "strategic military alliance" as a blow to the moderate policies pursued by Jordan and some other Arab countries. He claimed this cooperation between the United States and Israel will contribute to tension, instability and the possibility of international conflicts in the Middle East and, it will only stimulate Israeli aggression and expansionism.

Gulf

Kuwaiti Amir on Gulf Policy--In an interview with AL-QABAS, Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah said he will ask his colleagues in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to follow in Kuwait's footsteps and establish relations with the countries of the Eastern bloc "within a policy of balance between East and West." He expressed the hope that his recent tour of four socialist countries will dispel rumors that Kuwait's foreign policy has become aligned with U.S. policy and "colored with a Western hue," adding that the goal of his visit was to reaffirm Kuwait's principle of international "equilibrium" and nonalignment.

Israel

Jerusalem radio broadcast an interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir after his meeting in New York with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson in which Shamir said that French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Israel at the beginning of 1982, after a visit by Cheysson that will probably take place in early December.

Iran

Security Situation--Citing KEYHAN, AFP reported that the authorities executed another 25 Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters and members at Evin Prison on the night of 20 September, bringing to 207 the total number of dissidents executed over the weekend. Two of the Mojahedin were hanged in the presence of families of the "martyrs" of the revolution, KEYHAN said. AFP also cited JOMHURI YE ESLAMI as reporting that armed assailants attacked two clerics in Gorgan, killing one and wounding the other. According to another AFP report derived from the same source, revolution guards arrested two dissidents and wounded three others in separate incidents in Tehran. Meanwhile, Tehran radio quoted the governor general of Western Azarbayjan Province as saying that security forces killed over 180 armed members of the rebel Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) during the past month and that they wounded another 500 KDP rebels and captured a large number of them. According to other radio reports on operations against the KDP, revolution guards engaged in fierce fighting with rebels in the Miando'ab region and captured three villages near Oshnoviyeh. However, six guards were wounded when KDP forces subjected one of the villages to mortar fire.

Dissidents Clash With Turks--Ankara radio announced that two Turkish gendarmes were killed and another three were wounded when they clashed with an armed group from Iran attempting to seek shelter in Turkey.

Fallahi on Army Reorganization--Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that Acting Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi said in a television interview that the Iranian Army is in the process of rebuilding and developing. According to an AFP report on the interview, Fallahi said the reorganization aims at eradicating social inequalities among the various ranks.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi and Iranian Armed Forces communiques carried by INA and Tehran radio respectively indicated that fighting continued near Susangerd and along a number of other fronts, albeit with less intensity than over the weekend. Tehran radio said Iranian forces safeguarded and consolidated their newly-captured positions west of Susangerd while the Iraqi communique claimed a successful engagement in the Shush region left 94 Iranians dead. INA cited an authoritative Iraqi military source as denying Iranian claims to have shot down nine Iraqi aircraft over the weekend, asserting instead that all Iraqi planes returned safely to base in the course of Iraq's 85 air raids on Iranian positions. Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that Iranian antiaircraft fire downed another Iraqi MiG.

Afghanistan

Rejection of the BBC Report--Kabul radio rejected as 'groundless' anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda a BBC radio report that Muslim rebels attacked the Soviet Embassy in Kabul on 15 September with rockets, destroying part of the commercial wing and killing or wounding a number of embassy personnel.

Panjsher Valley Victory--Kabul radio reported that recent Afghan Army operations in the Panjsher Valley against rebels have succeeded in crushing "all" opposing groups and in taking a large number of persons captive.

Pakistan

Karachi radio reported that President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq told a gathering in Kharan that Pakistan will never reconcile itself to the foreign occupation of Afghanistan. Haq said Pakistan stands by its four principles on Afghanistan: the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the restoration of that nation's Islamic and nonaligned character, the safe return of 214 million Afghan refugees to their homes and Afghan self-determination.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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REPORTAGE ON STEADFASTNESS FRONT SESSIONS

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech

NC190956 Tripoli Domestic in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Sep 81

[Report on 18 September speech by Libyan Leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi at the final session of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front leaders in Benghazi, Libya]

[Text] After [the final statement at the meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front was read] the leader of the revolution [Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi] made a speech in which he expressed his deep gratitude for the Libyan men and women for having met with the members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front for participating in the 50th anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Umar al-Mukhtar, and moving his relics from Benghazi to Siluq where he was executed, and for the firm and fast support of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah people following the flagrant U.S. military aggression in the Gulf of Sidra. This affirms to the world that contrary to those who tried to deceive the world about the aggression occurring in territorial water that it is now known that the aggression took place against Libyan territory.

The brother leader stressed that the presence of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front today here in Benghazi to support the Libyan people against this aggression indicates that the aggression occurred against Libyan territory. Not long ago, well over 80 countries and 240 political organizations from throughout the world held a conference in solidarity with the Libyan people during which they expressed their support for the Libyan people against this aggression. This is cogent proof and an international testimony that the aggression, in the view of the whole world and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which expresses the reality of the Arab nation, took place against Libyan territory, the Gulf of Sidra.

The revolution leader said that regardless of this declared draft of this final statement of the conference, the establishment of the front is more important than statements. This front was established to confront and remain steadfast against the enemy, and to confront those who have capitulated to the enemy and to remain steadfast in the face of the enemy and the attempts serving the enemy by Arab parties. He said: I want to affirm that the results of the meeting held during this period are not everything that we have announced. This is only what is permissible to declare; this is the minimal limit that we must announce. But our principled struggle against the Zionist enemy, colonialism, Zionism and Arab reaction are stands that do not need confirmation.

The brother leader said: At the end of this conference, we thank this conference. We feel that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has been strengthened and is capable of influencing the Arab stand, even if by moving the masses who are capable of changing the political stand in confronting the enemy. They are capable of [words indistinct] political stand in the Arab homeland and to change the map. From here, we announce that we will stand by the masses with all the resources of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. These masses are now confronting and remaining steadfast in the face of the outrage of the Arab reactionary, treasonous agent defeatist regimes which are following the Camp David accords--the regimes which we do not have to name as far as journalists and the whole world are concerned.

The brother leader added: We feel that the Arab struggle has been strengthened by this meeting. Let the world know that the members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front are allied militarily, politically and economically.

Evidence of this is that when the aggression took place against Libya, the front members immediately called for convening this summit. As announced now, the Front members have placed all their resources at the disposal of the Libyan people to resist the aggression. All the resources of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front are placed at the disposal of the Palestinian resistance to liberate Palestine, at the disposal of the Syrian Arab Republic to liberate occupied Syrian territory and to stand up against the enemy and his plots, as well as at the disposal of PDRY to confront plots and at the disposal of Algeria, if necessary, to confront any colonialist and reactionary plotting.

The brother leader said: We strongly and publicly declare this firm and principled stand and are confident that the Arab masses from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf support the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. The defeatist stands by some that prevented them from joining this front are about to end before the march of the people and their insistence on confronting the enemy. We know that the Arab masses now realize the danger surrounding them and [threatening] their existence now that the imperialist-Zionist alliance has reached the point of a military alliance between the Israelis and the United States. He added: We believe that the Israelis have made a fatal and historic mistake by this direct military link with the United States. This will make the occupied land in Palestine a U.S. military base placed at the service of the NATO alliance and in the service of the military colonialist purposes of the United States, against Warsaw and against the Soviet Union and other peoples. He said: This alliance has developed the international events and factors not only in the Middle East but also in the whole world in a dangerous manner, seriously threatening world peace and bringing closer the confrontation between the big powers, because the Israelis allowed themselves and the land they are occupying to be in the direct service of the U.S. Army. As recently announced, the U.S. 6th Fleet has now become an Israeli fleet and the Israeli Air Force has become a U.S. air force. The world must realize this serious development. From now on, we will not differentiate between the U.S. 6th Fleet and the Israeli air fleet, as they have announced that they are cooperating and providing support and military protection for each other in all military operations and training maneuvers.

The area has entered an extremely grave stage and world war III, due to the Israeli and the stupid U.S. policy, has come closer. Only with our confrontation and steadfastness can we confront this situation which is being arranged in the Arab area and on the land of occupied Palestine and the heart of the Arab homeland. We will not go back because we are preparing to meet this danger more than ever before. All arguments that we used to present to the world are known--that the Israelis are the United States and the United States is Israel--have now been proved. It has now actually been proven that there is no difference between the two. When we used to say that it was the United States that was fighting the Arabs, there were some Arabs who did not believe this. Now, however, it was the United States that was fighting the Arabs, there were some Arabs who did not believe this. Now, however, it has become clear that the United States with its forces are in the occupied land, face-to-face with the Arabs. Now there is no longer any pretext for any Arab not to fight the United States with all arms. He who does not fight America stands with it, and he who stands with it should know that the U.S. has become Israel and that the Israelis have become the United States. No excuse shall be acceptable that differentiates between the Israelis and the United States from now on. What we said in the past has now been confirmed--the friends of the U.S. are the friends of Israel. Let the Arab peoples understand this; let the Arab masses understand this.

The leader further said: When we speak to the Arab masses, we are in fact addressing their progressive, national and revolutionary forces that are now recording victories in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Morocco and anywhere where the masses are endangered and repressed because of their aspirations for liberation and unity.

Iran's Musavi Withdraws 17 Sep

NC181934 Paris AFP in English 1922 GMT 18 Sep 81

[Text] Benghazi, Libya, 18 Sep (AFP)--The summit here of the "steadfastness front" resumed today behind closed doors and conference sources said participants discussed the situation resulting from Israeli Premier Menahem Begin's recent visit to Washington. The front groups Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In a speech to the opening session last night, Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi said he believed the reported Israeli-U.S. strategic accord modified the situation in the Middle East by making Israel "an American advanced base".

"At the regional level the Middle East conflict, which in a certain sense is an Arab-Israeli conflict, becomes an Arab-American conflict," he said. "On an international scale, it becomes an Israeli-American conflict against the Soviet Union, without taking into account the Arab element."

Iran's Foreign Minister Hoseyn Musavi, who attended the opening session, withdrew after Colonel al-Qadhafi's speech in which the Libyan leader had criticised the Iranian minister's use of the term "Persian Gulf". "The attachment to this shah-in-shah-ist [like the former shah of Iran] expression leads us to back Iraq's logic in justifying its war against Iran," al-Qadhafi said.

The invitation to Iran to attend as an observer appeared also to have run into some reluctance by other front leaders. A source close to the Palestinians regretted that Iraq had not been invited too.

As-Sa'iqah Praises Meeting

JN211738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Damascus--The General Command of the Popular Liberation War Vanguard-As-Sa'iqah Forces has praised the positive results of the fifth Steadfastness and Confrontation Front conference and the prominent role played by President Hafiz al-Asad in making the conference a success. This came in a statement made today to SANA by Comrade Sami Qandil, chief of the organization's Political Department.

Comrade Qandil asserted that the conference results accurately reflect the Arab masses' aspirations for further strengthening the march of steadfastness and confrontation in the face of the imperialist-Zionist alliance in the Arab region.

He said the conference results have also ruled out, once and for all, the political settlements being put forth in the Arab arena, and have blocked all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

Comrade Qandil added that the steadfastness conference has raised the hopes of our Palestinian Arab masses and, consequently, has offered direct support for their struggle and decisive battle inside and outside the occupied homeland against all attempts to split the unity of the Palestinian Arab people and create agent and substitute leaderships for the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON LEBANON

JN211550 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met today under Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Our correspondent has learned that the meeting discussed the latest developments in the region, particularly the security situation in Lebanon in the wake of the sabotage being carried out by the agents of Zionism with U.S. planning. The following statement was issued at the end of the meeting:

Yesterday, the U.S. secretary of state said the PLO, other Arab countries and the Soviet Union bear responsibility for the explosion of the situation in Lebanon. This statement was made in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli strategic military alliance and reveals the objectives of this alliance, which consist in pursuing the aggression and the criminal war through various means against the Palestinian revolution, the fraternal people of Lebanon, the forces of steadfastness and the Arab nation at large.

The U.S. secretary of state's statement is merely an attempt to cover up for his Zionist allies and their collaborators who have shed the blood of hundreds of women and children in recent days in Sidon, Beirut and the north and who are continuing their attempts to sabotage security and stability and the national accord efforts. They are doing so to maintain Israel's role and its interference and the implementation of its agents' schemes in Lebanon.

Accusing parties other than Israel and its collaborators implies support for these hostile forces as they pursue their criminal acts in implementation of the U.S. strategic schemes and comes within the framework of the new U.S.-Israel alliance.

The Palestinian revolution will support Lebanese national efforts and the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon with its full potential in order to safeguard security in Lebanon and thwart acts of sabotage being prepared by the agents of Zionism with U.S. planning and supervision.

VOP: 'ARAFAT INVITED TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

NC220724 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]--has recieved the Soviet Ambassador in Beirut, Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov. Our correspondent has learned that the Soviet ambassador handed Abu 'Ammar an invitation from the Soviet leadership to visit' the USSR.

KUWAITAMIR INTERVIEW: NEED FOR BALANCED GULF POLICY

GF211850 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Sep 81 pp 2, 3

["Text" of interview granted to Kuwaiti press editors by Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on board his plane returning from Yugoslavia on 19 September 1981].

[Excerpts] [Question] Why did your highness' tour include four socialist countries out of five countries visited during the trip?

[Answer] After Kuwait joined the membership of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], I began to hear many rumors from various channels saying that Kuwait would follow U.S. policy and that its foreign policy would be colored with a Western hue in general. Therefore, we had to put an end to these baseless rumors and deny others the chance of casting doubts about Kuwait's policy and its foreign and international line.

My visit to socialist countries was fixed before the establishment of the GCC. After the establishment of the GCC and the circulation of these deceptive rumors on the diversion of Kuwait's policy, I decided to make the tour to practically reaffirm that Kuwait's line had not changed and that our policy was still based on principles springing from objective beliefs in the interest of the national good and the good of the region. Thus, I probably have put an end to these rumors which are like fishing in disturbed waters and which are creating an atmosphere of doubt over the nature of Kuwait's stand.

The amir continued: My goal of this visit was to reaffirm the principle of international "equilibrium" which Kuwait is following in its foreign policy. We are neither aligned to the East nor to the West. However, we are seeking the friendship of all because every country in the world needs the cooperation of the other. It is equilibrium in our international relations that enhances our independence and sovereignty, perpetuates stability in the region and leads away from international rivalries. Therefore, I will ask my brothers in the GCC countries to follow the same line and to establish relations with the countries of the Eastern bloc within a policy of balance between East and West. We do not have any fear of establishing bridges of close relations with all, particularly since we are small countries in need of winning friends all over the world.

The amir said: As for the fear of "importing" ideologies and ideas to the region, Kuwait will not be a center for them. Besides, our region has a fence that prevents the infiltration of these ideas to it. Our holy religion, familial relationships and social traditions make our region's atmosphere unfavorable for such ideas in addition to the fact that we are close-knit countries. We are not divided like other countries.

[Question] Is the policy of "equilibrium" confined to the international political equation, or does it also embrace the economic domain, so that Kuwait's political move will affect its economic policy toward increased dealings with eastern bloc countries?

[Answer] We have been open to all countries of the world in our economic dealings even before this tour. We do not restrict our major projects to a certain country or to firms of a specific international nature. Rather, we announce our tenders to all and our choice is determined by the price offered by these firms regardless of their nationality. He who observes our local projects will find a diversity in the firms currently implementing them, from Eastern and Western countries and also from Third World countries.

During this tour, we bought government bonds from the socialist countries that we toured within our economic cooperations with these countries. All this proves that our economic policy is balanced in its international dealings, just as our foreign policy is balanced in its international relations.

[Question] Does your highness expect this tour to create some trouble for you on the level of international relations?

[Answer] Of course, this tour will create some trouble for me. Yet, for the sake of Kuwait, everything is easy. Our policy is constant and known by all our friends and brothers. We are following a line which we will not depart from: When we are sure of a domestic, Arab or international decision, we will adopt it, will depend on God and implement it, without fearing trouble.

[Question] The second GCC summit will be held in November. Will a distinctive and unified economic policy for the six countries of the GCC be drawn up during this summit?

[Answer] In truth, we are serious in giving this subject due attention. During our next meeting, we will try our best to coordinate our economic projects so that there will be no clash between one project and another in the countries of the region. Moreover, we will try to unify our foreign investment policy as much as possible for the general mutual good.

[Question] The Iraqi-Iranian War has entered its second year and the efforts being exerted to put an end to it have failed. What is your comment?

[Answer] Kuwait took a stand on this issue at the outset. We clearly announced that we are hoping for an end to the war between the two Muslim neighbors Iraq and Iran.

We also announced--and still announce--that we support the efforts being made by the good offices committee that was formed by the Islamic summit conference which was held in At-Ta'if.

OMAN

AFGHAN LIBERATION LEADER DEPARTS, MAKES STATEMENT

EA191614 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 81

[Summary] Prof 'Abd ar-Rasul Sayyaf, head of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, left Oman with his delegation today after a 10-day visit.

"Before his departure, his excellency Professor Sayyaf made a statement in which he praised the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus and affirmed his majesty's concern about an interest in matters relating to Muslims and especially in the cause of Afghanistan.

"His excellency told radio and television reporters and the correspondent of Oman: We have been honored to meet His Majesty Sultan Qabus whom we found to be greatly interested in Islamic causes and to fully support our cause. His excellency Professor Sayyaf expressed his delegation's satisfaction at meeting his majesty the sultan and said that his majesty had expressed his readiness to pursue his special interest in the cause of the mojahedin and his comprehensive backing for the cause.

"The head of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan praised the outcome of his visit to the sultanate and the outcome of his talks with officials. He said the visit was successful, God be praised, and its results will be satisfactory to all.

"His excellency added: We found the Omani people to be a Muslim people who adhere to their faith and are characterized by high Islamic morals. We also perceived fraternal sentiments on the part of the officials of the Omani Government toward their brothers, the mojahedin of Afghanistan, as well as interest in Islamic issues in general. We also found strong backing for us from the Omani Government. For this reason the outcome of the visit has been [word indistinct] and 100 percent successful.

"His excellency Professor Sayyaf touched on the recent gains of the Afghan mojahedin. When asked whether these gains represent a new (?dimension) in the ongoing war there, he replied: These victories show the experience of the mojahedin in the jihad they have been waging for 3 years. They also indicate God's support for the mojahedin in their struggle. He explained that the mojahedin are changing their tactics to match the changing conditions there.

"His excellency Professor Sayyaf was seen off by His Excellency Ahmad Yusuf ('Ubayd) al-Harithi, head of the Third Department in the Foreign Ministry and a representative from the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry."

MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR RIYADH MEETINGS

GF201300 Doha QNA in Arabic 1214 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] Muscat, 20 Sep (QNA)--Staff Col Hasan Ihsan Nasib, deputy chairman of the Omani Armed Forces Coordinating Committee, left for Saudi Arabia today leading the Omani military delegation to the meetings of the chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which will begin in Riyadh tomorrow.

During these meetings, a number of issues pertaining to Gulf security will be discussed.

SAUDI ARABIAAL-JAZIRAH VIEWS EFFORTS TO WIN WESTERN SUPPORT

GF211519 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 19 Sep 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabia's Efforts Through Fahd's Moves in Europe and the United States"]

[Excerpts] In accordance with King Khalid's directives Fahd is continuing his constructive international efforts to win positive support for the just Arab demands and the Palestinians' inalienable rights by the U.S. and EEC governments, which are the major international forces that make or influence international decisions.

Fahd's efforts are taking place in the form of direct and intensive talks with West European and U.S. leaders to bring about increased understanding for Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan for the Middle East.

We would not be saying anything new when we assert that Saudi Arabia has often made sacrifices, is still willing to sacrifice and is capable of sacrificing private interests in its international relations so that the world and world public opinion will understand that the kingdom's leaders do not compromise on the two causes of destiny: The cause of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinians' inalienable rights, in return for any other interest, whatever the sacrifice, so that the world will understand the unlimited extent to which Saudi Arabia will go in its political, diplomatic, economic, commercial and other efforts to regain Palestinian rights and the occupied territories.

All that we ask of the countries that make or influence international decisions on dealing with such tense issues as the Middle East question is to appreciate the role Saudi Arabia has played and continues to play to preserve the reciprocal interests of the Arab countries and the countries of the outside world and to preserve the continuity of Arab and international relations without upsetting these relations as a result of political differences on what should be done to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully, justly and comprehensively.

By pursuing a moderate line in its international stands and policies, Saudi Arabia has been the safety valve for vital international interests in the Middle East by shielding these interests from the repercussions of the political differences among those who have demanded and are demanding striking at these interests as a punishment for the states that are believed to be stalling in supporting Arab demands and Palestinian rights. Saudi Arabia has been hoping that these countries, and above all the EEC countries and the United States, will show an objective understanding for those demands and rights and through positive support and constructive action seek to achieve these rights by an international formula for a just and peaceful settlement.

However, in our view, Saudi Arabia cannot continue indefinitely in this moderate line which has so far prevented the EEC countries and the United States--and they are friendly countries--from suffering economic and trade disasters that would make it difficult if not impossible for them to continue the relations of cooperation and reciprocal interests they always had in the past.

Hence, Saudi Arabia's efforts--through Fahd's moves in Europe and later in the United States following the invitation from President Reagan to visit Washington--are starting to attract West European and U.S. support for the just Arab demands and Palestinian rights, and in order that the relations between these countries and Saudi Arabia in particular, and the Arab states in general, continue to be--as they have always been--relations of friendship, cooperation and reciprocal interests. These relations have, in our view, become dependent to a great extent on what the final European and U.S. stands will be regarding the justice of the Arab demands and Palestinian rights--after Saudi Arabia carries out its full role clearly and frankly in convincing the Europeans and the Americans of this "basic fact" that forms part of the political, diplomatic, economic, trade and military facts connected with the Middle East conflict. Everyone who wants to make a sincere effort to resolve this conflict should take this basic fact into consideration.

YARSOVIET OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN SAN'A' 22 SEP

JN221035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] San'a', 22 Sep (INA)--Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR state committee for foreign economic relations, arrived here today heading a delegation on a visit of several days to the YAR. The Soviet delegation will participate in the celebrations marking the 26 September Revolution anniversary. The delegation will also hold talks with Yemeni officials.

Mordvinov condemned the Zionist attacks on the Arab nation. He said that his country supports the means to find a just peace that would bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and would attain the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to determine their future and set up their independent state.

DECREE FORMING PEACE-SOLIDARITY SECRETARIAT

JN201754 Sana'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has issued decree no. 16/1981 forming the General Secretariat for the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council. The first article reads:

The General Secretariat of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council will include the following brothers:

Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Muhammad (?Lutfi) as-Sabahi, 'Abd Rabbuh 'Arabi Jaradah, Yahya 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Iriyani, 'Ali [name indistinct] 'Ali Sabrah, Muhammad Radman ad-Durrah, Yahya 'Abdallah al-'Izari, Muhammad Salih al-Khalidi, Muhammad Salih 'Abdallah, Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Hammudah at-Ta'ifi, Ahmad al-Khattabi, 'Ali al-Watari and 'Abd ar-Rahman Ahmad ash-Shahidi.

The second article says that the law will take effect as of the date it is issued and published in the official gazette.

AS-SADAT DECREES APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICIALS

Ministers Appointed

NC212224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--A decree of the republic has been issued amending the formation of the Cabinet as follows:

Article 1. The formation of the Cabinet provided for in the President of the Republic's Decree 208 of 1980 regarding certain posts shall be amended according to the text of the following two articles.

Article 2. The posts of the minister of state for the presidential affairs and minister of state for information shall be abolished.

Article 3. Fikri Makram 'Ubayd shall be appointed deputy prime minister for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; Albert Barsum Salamah, minister of state [as received--no specific portfolia noted]; 'Abd al-Akhir Muhammad 'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; Muhammad Rashwan Mahmud, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, minister of state for culture; Mukhtar Hasan Salim Hani, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.

Article 4. This decree shall be published in the official gazette.

Governors Appointed

NC211959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1943 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a republican decree appointing Mahmud Muhammad Mahrus as governor of Bani Suwayf; 'Abd al-Munsif Hazin, as governor of Al-Munifiyah; Mahmud Ibrahim Lutfi, a governor of Al-Jizah; Dr Muhammad Naji Mahmud Shatlah, a governor of Kafr ash-Shaykh; Salah ad-Din Muhammad Ibrahim, as governor of Al-Minya; and 'Abd al-Halim Ibrahim Muhammad as-Sa'idi, a governor of Qina.

Informational Duties Assumed

NC212230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a decree that Deputy Prime Minister Dr Ahmad Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din will take over the functions of the minister charged with information affairs.

BUTRUS GHALI DISCUSSES AUTONOMY TALKS WITH PRESS

NC212140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt's aim behind the autonomy talks which will begin here Wednesday is to boost the peace process in the West Bank and Gaza. He expressed his hope that the atmosphere will be prepared in the West Bank and Gaza and that a spirit of confidence will be created to encourage the Palestinians to participate directly or indirectly in a future stage of the negotiations.

At a press conference held this evening for foreign correspondents Ghali said: At the final session of the previous negotiations held in October, Egypt submitted a working paper for consideration as a declaration of principles. Egypt's stand is flexible and clear. We are ready to discuss any new measures or ideas, because our goal is to maintain the peace process and push it forward. We are also ready to continue the dialogue to establish peace in the West Bank and Gaza despite all the obstacles we faced at the previous stage.

Ghali added: We are ready to discuss any proposal on the negotiations table. We seek to prepare the political atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza. We must seek together how to hold direct contacts with the Palestinians. He said: If we want to assess the previous stage, we must not ignore the Palestinians. We must give importance to this issue to enable the Palestinians to participate directly or indirectly in the negotiations. He further said that according to the Camp David agreements, the term Palestinians means the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and the Palestinians existing outside their lands.

Asked about the U.S. stand in future negotiations Ghali said that the United States agreed to be a full partner in the negotiations. It is also a full partner in this new stage. We will keep in touch with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to contact the U.S. Administration for agreement on the steps it will take in the future in light of what we will reach. He said that the United States is a necessary element in the negotiations as a full partner. Nothing will occur unless the three parties reach a full agreement.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the United States will take part in these meetings and will be represented by its ambassador in Cairo and its ambassador to Israel assisted by a number of experts. The participation of U.S. officials at a higher level will be decided later.

He said that meetings took place in the past 2 days on the level of experts between Israel and Egypt in Tel Aviv and between the United States and Egypt in Cairo to prepare for the ministerial meeting which will be held the day after tomorrow.

Asked about the possibility of applying autonomy in Gaza as a first step, Dr Ghali said that this subject was discussed 2 years ago at the Blair House meetings, and the Egyptian delegation proposed the application of autonomy in Gaza as a first step.

He added that there is no objection to the application of autonomy in Gaza as a first step provided we reach a comprehensive agreement or agreement on the main issues regarding the application of autonomy in both the West Bank and Gaza together.

Dr Ghali said that the important thing is create an atmosphere that would encourage Palestinian participation in the negotiations. We must continue the dialogue to reach an agreement, because this is what the negotiations process is all about.

Asked about Egypt's stand toward the U.S.-Saudi agreement on the AWACS, Dr Ghali said: Egypt's stand on this issue is quite clear: Egypt supports and welcomes this agreement. He said: We believe that this agreement is important, because it bolsters Saudi Arabia's ability to defend its sovereignty and political security.

Referring to the normalization measures between Israel and Egypt, Ghali said that they are proceeding normally without any problems. We have reached agreements in the fields of transport and the exchange of goods, and I am satisfied with these measures, Ghali added.

Asked about the stand of the Arab countries toward the autonomy talks Ghali said: The disagreement between us and the Arab countries is one of method and measures and not on the goal.

He said: Our aim is the same: To regain the Palestinian right to the West Bank and Gaza.

Speaking about Libyan threats against African countries, Ghali said: Libya is blatantly violating the OAU principles. Libya constitutes a danger to African unity. Egypt condemns Libyan intervention in Africa. Ghali said that since the Freetown conference held last year, Egyptian diplomacy has emphasized to the world the Libyan dangers threatening Africa. He stressed that any Libyan aggression against the Sudan will be considered an aggression against Egypt.

GHALI COMMENTS ON 'REJECTIONIST BLOC' STATEMENT

NC211833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stressed that the rejectionist countries' bloc which includes the leaders of Libya, Syria, the PDRY, Algeria, the PLO and the Iranian foreign minister is only aimed at engineering conspiracies and attempting to expand in the Arab world against the Arab regimes in the East and the Arab Maghreb which refuse to give in to blackmail and threats.

Commenting on the Benghazi statement that was declared the day before yesterday following the meetings of the so-called rejectionist countries, Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt pins no importance on the threats of this bloc, because it is strong with the faith and patriotism of its sons and is capable of cutting off all sinister hands that try to act against the interests of the Egyptian people, their national unity and efforts for construction and prosperity.

Ghali added that Egypt and the majority of the Arab countries do not approve of the principles and methods pursued by this bloc and reject acts of terrorism, murder, bloodshed and their attempts to impose their policy and stands on the Arab governments. Egypt warns of the grave consequences that might result from their persistence in these policies. He said that Egypt would have liked these rulers to direct their efforts and funds to serve their peoples and achieve stability and prosperity for them. He said that the frank declaration of the Benghazi meeting that they would further strengthen relations with the Soviet Union and achieve strategic cooperation with it clearly shows the reality of the moving force of this bloc and its intention.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES GOUKOUNI'S STATEMENTS

NC211530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)--Egypt has officially affirmed that Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei's statements, accusing Egypt of committing an aggression against Chad are false and groundless. Egypt has also affirmed that it has nothing to do with the current fighting in eastern Chad between the forces of former defense minister Hissein Habre and the forces of Goukouni Oueddei.

This was contained in a statement made today by a Foreign Ministry official spokesman, who said that the Egyptian Government has received with great astonishment the statements made by the Chadian president during a press conference in Paris. The Egyptian Government strongly denies these accusations which are only a repetition of Libyan propaganda which is trying to create justifications for the continuing occupation of the state of Chad and for the annexation of this independent African state to Al-Qadhdhafi's empire.

The official spokesman affirmed that the Egyptian Government fully adheres to the OAU resolution and calls on Libya to respect these resolutions. He added that Egypt will continue to pursue a policy calling for both restoring national unity in Chad on the basis of the free will of the Chadian people, rejecting all foreign interventions and for the need for the African states to participate in ensuring Chad's security, safety and independence.

AS-SADAT REPORTEDLY RELEASES FUNDAMENTALISTS

NC220948 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Sep (AFP)--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat is believed to have released two of the country's Muslim fundamentalist leaders, 'Umar at-Tilmisani and 'Umar Malti, the Kuwaiti daily newspaper AS-SIYASAH said today.

It said the two men, who were among 1,536 people arrested in Egypt a fortnight ago for "religious sedition" or threatening national security, were thought to have left prison yesterday.

The newspaper said two other Egyptian fundamentalists named on the list of people arrested, Mustafa Mashur and Kamal Sanayri, were now in West Germany.

'ALI ISSUES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM FAR EAST

NC220808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo early today, concluding his 3-week Asian tour during which he visited Thailand, Singapore, China, North Korea and Japan.

'Ali stated at Cairo Airport that his tour was necessary because it was an important part of Egypt's diplomatic activity in 1981. He said that these countries fully appreciate Egypt's efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace in the area and a resolution of the Palestine question. He added that there is agreement that the Palestine problem represents the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that, if it is not resolved, the situation will remain extremely difficult.

'Ali said that the bilateral relations between Egypt and the states he visited are based on complete understanding and on the necessity of strengthening these relations with Egypt being [words indistinct] with the East Asian states in various fields.

'Ali said that during the tour, a trade agreement was initialed with Thailand, he met the new Chinese leaders and questions pending with North Korea concerning imports and exports were resolved.

Concerning Japan, the possibility of bilateral cooperation was raised in various fields, particularly with regard to assisting Egypt in the second stage of developing the Suez Canal and the food security projects in the new societies.

'Ali concluded his statement by saying that the tour fully achieved its objectives from the political aspect as well as with regard to the bilateral relations between Egypt and these states.

BRIEFS

FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEPARTS--Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)--Jacques Andreani, former French ambassador in Cairo, left Cairo for his home this morning following his transfer from Cairo to assume a new post at the French Foreign Ministry. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador 'Abd ar-Rahim al-Khadhrabi of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Protocol Department. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 Sep 81 NC]

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

No 465

JN181743 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 81

[Communique No 465 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 18 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Another proof, perhaps they will go aright:

The vanguards of the nation, Iraq's triumphant forces, continued to pound the forces of the ignorant racist Persians in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. The Persian enemy desperately tried at dawn today to attack our units in the regions of Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Karkeh [Al-'Amyah]. Our brave units forced it to stop as a first stage and then mounted a counterattack, forcing it to abandon its positions and retreat eastward leaving behind heavy losses in lives and equipment. Losses in front of one of our forward positions only amounted to 254 killed and a number taken captive. The total losses will be announced in our communique tomorrow. The enemy also lost 12 killed and 2 vehicles and 1 helicopter destroyed in the same region.
- B. One of our forward units hit hard with various weapons an enemy concentration in front of their positions in the Abadan region, inflicting on it heavy losses in lives put at 74 killed. The enemy also lost three killed and one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the same region.
- C. Six killed and one gun destroyed in the Sumar region.
- D. Three killed in the Mimak region in front of the positions of one of our forward units in Sayf Sa'd.
- E. One excavator destroyed in the Shush region.
- F. All day today, our fighter planes mounted daring and effective raids on enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operations theater. Our valiant pilots fought courageously in attacking the enemy and destroying its forces, asserting their absolute superiority and total control over the battle's airspace. Our air force today mounted 85 sorties and all our planes returned safely to their bases.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 352 killed, a number of captives, 3 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 1 stockpile of hardware, and 1 helicopter.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: five martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: three mortars damaged.
- C. This afternoon, the Persian enemy shelled Basra with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 September 1981

No 466

JN191723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Sep 81

[Communique No 466 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 19 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The vanguards of the Arab nation, our victorious armed forces, continued to strike at the racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Fierce battles resumed today when the enemy called in more troops in a desperate attempt to attack our forward units in the Khafajiyah area. Our valiant forces confronted the enemy troops and pounded them violently, inflicting on them grave losses in life and equipment. Known enemy losses when this communique was prepared were: 157 killed and 28 tanks; 5 armored personnel carriers; 11 vehicles, 5 laden with hardware and one carrying personnel; 3 guns; 2 excavators; 2 rocket launchers; and 11 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. One fighter plane was also shot down. The following serviceable equipment was seized: two Chieftain tanks, one vehicle and one excavator.
- B. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Gilan-e Gharb area, forcing it to retreat after sustaining 63 dead.
- C. Our forward unit in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area attacked enemy troop concentrations, killing 46.
- D. Using various weapons, our units pounded enemy concentrations in the Dezful area, killing 38 and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 stockpile of hardware.
- E. Eleven killed and one gun and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Shush area.
- F. Seven were killed in the Nowsud area.
- G. Four were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mimak area.
- H. Three were killed in the Mehran area.
- I. Two were killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin.
- J. One was killed and one tank and two vehicles, one carrying personnel, were destroyed in the Abadan area.
- K. Our fighter planes today violently attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sectors, scoring direct and painful hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 332 killed, 31 tanks, 5 armored personnel carriers, 15 vehicles, 4 guns, 4 excavators, 2 rocket launchers, 13 stockpiles of hardware, and 1 observation post destroyed. One fighter plane was shot down.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 36 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: 18 tanks, 3 personnel carriers, 2 vehicles and 1 gun damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 September 1981

No 467

JN201708 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Communique No 467 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 20 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of Arab dignity and Iraq's great honor, our triumphant armed forces continued to pound the arrogant and racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. With efficiency and high enthusiasm, our units hit hard with various weapons enemy forces in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment put at 156 killed and 10 tanks; 6 armored personnel carriers; 18 vehicles, three loaded with soldiers and one with hardware; 1 gun; 7 rocket launchers; 1 excavator and 4 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. Two serviceable personnel carriers were also seized in the same region.
- B. Our forward units hit with various weapons enemy concentrations in front of their positions in the Shush region, killing 37 and destroying 1 tank, 2 guns, 1 excavator and 1 observation post.
- C. Enemy concentrations were sighted in front of our positions in the Abadan region. They were hit with various weapons and forced to retreat, leaving behind 34 killed and 1 personnel carrier destroyed. One observation post and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the same region.
- D. Ten were killed and one vehicle and two guns destroyed in the Nowsud region.
- E. Eight were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
- F. Seven were killed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
- G. One vehicle loaded with personnel was destroyed in the Sumar region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 252 dead, 11 tanks, 9 armored personnel carriers, 20 vehicles, 5 guns, 2 excavators, 7 rocket launchers, 6 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 29 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: Four tanks and one vehicle damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 September 1981

No 468

JN211721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Communique No 468 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Iraq's brave soldiers continued to pound the forces of the ignorant and racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Our forward units engaged an enemy force in the Shush region. Following a quick and fierce battle in which various weapons were used, the enemy was forced to flee leaving behind 94 killed and 1 vehicle destroyed.
- B. Enemy concentrations were sighted in front of our forward positions in the Dezful region. They were hit with various weapons, sustaining 42 killed and 1 vehicle destroyed. The enemy also lost 34 killed in the same region yesterday.
- C. Our units hit enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 34 and destroying 8 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post.
- D. Our forward units continued to pound enemy concentrations in front of their positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 14 and destroying 2 tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 2 vehicles, 1 excavator, 1 rocket launcher and 2 stockpiles of hardware.

- E. A 14-man strong enemy force was sighted near one of our forward positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. It was hit with various weapons and all its members were killed.
- F. Nine were killed in the Sumar region.
- G. Two were killed in the Iranian zone opposite Panjwin.
- H. Two were killed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
- I. One vehicle and two excavators were destroyed in the Mehran region.
- J. One vehicle was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
- K. Our aircraft today attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 235 dead, 2 tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 6 vehicles, 3 excavators, 1 rocket launcher, 10 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: 15 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: one personnel carrier, six vehicles, three mortars and one rocket launcher damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 September 1981

INA COMMENTATOR RIDICULES IRANIAN WAR CLAIMS

JN211811 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)--The political commentator of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) challenged Iran's General Staff to come up with any proofs that substantiate its claims of shooting down 9 Iraqi war jets from 15 to 19 September.

The commentator, quoting an authoritative military source, said all Iraqi war jets which launched massive air raids against Iranian concentrations and ground forces during the said period had safely returned to base as announced in the daily war communiques of the High Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

"Iran has not evidence at all to substantiate its claims," he added, while questioning the Iranian General Staff to explicitly state as "when and where it had at least shot down a single aircraft and whether it was in a position to come up with a simple evidence of a wreckage of the jets it had alleged shooting down or the fate of the pilots or any other documents confirming their identity."

The commentator emphasized that the Iranian General Staff was unable to say anything on the fate of its troops which came under 85 air raids by Iraqi jets on September 18.

"Those massive air raids were, as confirmed by Iraqi sources, yet another proof of Iraq's air superiority over the battlefields," he said.

He pointed out that the new Iranian claim is yet another in a series of claims of empty lies on the "illusionary gains achieved by their troops on the battlegrounds..."

He stressed that neither the Iranian regime nor its general staff can divert the attention of the Iranian peoples or the international opinion from the heavy losses the Iranian Army has suffered at the hands of the Iraqi forces.

BAGHDAD COMMENTARY CRITICIZES OIL BARTERING

JN211815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The OPEC consultative meeting in Geneva on 19 August failed to standardize prices and tackle the problem of the world market oil surplus caused by the high production of one OPEC member and by the rejection by some OPEC members of the moderate Iraqi proposal to standardize prices at \$35 per barrel of Saudi marker oil, with premiums to be allowed for oil grade differences and transport fees of other deserving oils. In the wake of this failure to resolve the problems of the surplus and the differences in prices that harm most OPEC members, some OPEC members have resorted to bartering their oil, thinking they can avoid lowering their prices but actually harming their national economy and the economies of developing countries.

This bartering will deprive these prices--although we have our reservations about them--of their force and will wreck the price structure. When the backward Khomeyni regime, which has destroyed Iran's economy and starved its peoples, sells Iranian oil for lentils, peas and other foodstuffs, how can oil prices be measured and set?

Oil is the major source of hard currencies, including the dollar, for OPEC members. Therefore, the sale of oil by bartering means depleting these countries' reserves for hard currencies they need in their international economic relations. Moreover, in addition to the detrimental results we have mentioned, oil-consuming countries that buy oil through bartering will raise the prices of the commodities and goods they exchange for oil in order to make the highest profit from this operation in view of their advance knowledge of the motives that prompt some OPEC states to resort to this method.

Finally, this bartering will lower the importance of oil, this strategic wealth, in international economic relations. This is precisely what Khomeyni's Iran is now doing. The OPEC countries will thus lose a trump card by which they can procure modern technology to modernize and improve their economies and compensate for their exhaustible oil wealth.

Bartering oil for any commodity will bring nothing but losses and the exhaustion of this wealth to the OPEC countries. Therefore, they are called upon to shun this harmful practice which is detrimental to OPEC's future and unity, since it is a deviation from OPEC decisions.

The current state of the world oil market is temporary and transient, as was said by the Revolution Command Council member and oil minister. This state, however, will continue unless OPEC reaches agreement on prices and production so as to strengthen OPEC's unity and restore its strong ability to negotiate with the oil monopolies and oil-consuming countries.

KURDS IN LEBANON, SYRIA CONDEMN IRAQI REGIME

JN211400 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] Beirut--The Politburo of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK]-Provisional Command in Lebanon and the Politburo of the (brusk Kurd) movement in Syria issued a joint statement on 22 August 1981 in which they condemned the desecration of the body of immortal Kurdish leader Barzani.

They called on progressive and patriotic forces everywhere to strongly condemn this crime perpetrated by the fascist rulers of Baghdad and their treasonous agents in Iranian Kordestan. They also appealed to all honest men in the world to stand by the Kurdish revolution under the leadership of the DPRK and the command of brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani.

BADRAN CRITICIZES U.S.-ISRAELI COOPERATION

JN212008 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Address by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran to Jordanian National Consultative Council session in Amman on 21 September--videotaped]

[Text] Mr Speaker, esteemed members: In its regional policy, Jordan proceeds from its belief in serious action for achieving a just peace that will primarily guarantee the entire region's security and stability. Jordan's concept of stability is organically linked with its stand on the issue of peace. Its stand on this issue is clear and known to all. We explained it to the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to Amman in April. We informed him that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is the basis on which stability could be built and that this peace can only be achieved by solving the Palestinian issue in accordance with the UN resolutions through the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination, the establishment of a Palestinian state on their national soil and the full participation of the PLO in any genuine peace process in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem; Israel's exploitation of the time factor to change the facts in the occupied land on the demographic, economic, cultural and religious levels; Israel's practices of organized pressure on the Arab Palestinians, the owners and residents of the occupied land; Israel's complete dependence on the force of arms and military superiority; its defiance of international resolutions and laws and the principles of the United Nations pertaining to the Palestinian issue; and the problem of occupation are the sole facts sustaining the state of tension and instability in the Middle East. This being the case, no one can be unaware of the dimensions of such a stand and such an aggressive policy on the present and future of the region.

The strategic military alliance between the United States and Israel--built on this groundwork of tension, continuation of occupation of land and holy places and suppression of the entire region's peoples--can be viewed by us only as a new factor for tension, instability and the opening wide of the region's doors for international conflicts. We also clearly view it as a U.S. admittance to the Zionist enemy of the right to share in protecting the region, suppressing the will of its peoples and imposing its hegemony over its resources and strategic locations. Furthermore, this strategic alliance will increase Israel's intransigence and whet its appetite for expansion and aggression, since this alliance was described by responsible U.S. officials as a confirmation of the strategic relationship that links the United States, a superpower, with Israel, which occupies the land of others by force of arms. If left alone without a sincere Arab stand against it, this alliance will realize the dreams of Zionism of participating, in cooperation with the biggest state in the world, in drawing up the strategy of the region according to its wishes for generations to come known only to God.

Moreover, the most important manifestation of this cooperation is the U.S. intention to stockpile arms, material and other means of war in Israel, which continues to raise the issue of peace in a manner that would realize its expansionist designs through its military superiority.

Gentlemen, the government believes that the declaration of strategic cooperation between the United States and the Zionist enemy is a blow to the policy of moderation adopted by Jordan and some other Arab countries. It is also obvious defiance of oppressed peoples in the region and an insult to the intelligence of the Arabs, who see their wealth, resources, numbers and stands being used against them while the reapers of their fruit openly call for transferring these fruits to their enemies' use.

This agreement is a fresh obstacle on the road to peace. It is a belittlement of the Arab nation and of its peoples, wealth and geographic positions. It is a conspiratorial circumvention of the Arab nation's legitimate aspirations for safeguarding its identity and dignity away from acts of polarization and toward safeguarding its security and stability, while depending upon itself far from the specters of regional or world hegemony. Peace be upon you.

JOINT STEADFASTNESS COMMITTEE ENDS SESSION

JN211756 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Amman--The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland ended its 17th session today. The session began on 15 September.

During its weeklong meetings, the committee discussed several topics on supporting the Palestinian people's steadfastness. It adopted several resolutions on supporting a number of projects in various fields. Among these projects is the establishment of a national welfare fund that will provide assistance to employees and workers in several public institutions and bodies in the occupied territories and the formation of a special committee that will organize the fund's work and enable it to begin its task. The resolutions also covered the adoption of appropriate measures to continue support for the steadfastness of the kinfolk with all means and capabilities in light of the development in the situation in the occupied territories which arose from the Israeli occupation authorities' measures and practices against Arab inhabitants to make life difficult for them, prevent them from enjoying a decent living and obstruct the provision of aid and services for the improvement of their living conditions and development of their cities and villages.

The resolutions also supported the inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories in their rejection of the activities of the village league which the Zionist enemy is establishing in the West Bank so as to create conflicts among the Arab inhabitants and serve Israel's schemes to legalize occupation and implement the autonomy conspiracy.

The committee called on the inhabitants to confront this suspect conspiracy, refrain from cooperating with it and foil its objectives.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs; Interior Minister Sulayman 'Ara; Engineer 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and minister of state for Prime Ministry Affairs; and the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Land Affairs.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department; Khalil al-Wazir, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Dr Hanna Nasir, Hani al-Hasan and Brig 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

TIMES EDITORIAL BERATES U.S. ON AWACS DEAL

JN190919 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Frail Sovereignty"]

[Text] The dramatic contest now taking place in the United States Senate over the proposed sale of American AWACS planes and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia is seen in the Arab world as yet further proof that the cliches and maxims of American policy-making can always be violated in the case of Israel. We in the Arab world are now being subjected to yet another barrage of American arguments about the reasons and rationales of American policy in the region, in yet another attempt to inject some sense into what remains to us a senselessness and insensitive trend in American decision-making vi-a-vis the Arab world and the Middle East region as a whole.

We have always thought that the AWACS deal will be approved and consummated. Yet the intensity of the American opposition to that package of equipment gives us plenty of evidence of the frailty of American sovereignty when the issue of Israel and Israeli "security" is involved. Counting how many senators are for or against the arms package is an exercise that we would rather leave to our more logarithmic friends in the United States.

What interests us more is the fact that the American president, State Department and Pentagon have to unleash all their domestic political ammunition to win approval for an arms package that they deem to be so clearly in the national interest of the United States. We wonder why similar opposition is not mustered in the case of the multi-billion dollar arms package to Pakistan?

The essential point that we see in this matter is that America does not yet have full freedom of action in an arena where Israeli concerns are also involved. Until this situation is changed, American voices will remain suspect, American arguments will remain dubious and American prestige and credibility will remain badly flawed.

AD-DUSTUR CALLS ON SAUDI ARABIA TO DROP AWACS DEAL

JN190839 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Sep 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Is the AWACS Worth Its Heavy Price?" the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: No other arms deal between two states has ever caused a media clamor or political and military extortion like that of the AWACS planes, which have been bought by Saudi Arabia with its own money. However, the Congress strongly objects to this deal because Israel objects to it and is trying to stop it.

This clamor, which has exceeded what is customary and has gone beyond the limits of urbanity, ethics and diplomacy, has begun to raise so much disgust that abrogation of the deal, replacing it with another one from any other country, has become a national and pan-Arab requisite.

AD-DUSTUR adds: What prevents Saudi Arabia from abrogating this deal at a time when it can obtain a similar one from any other state? It will then put an end to the congressmen's criticism and the extortion being practiced on the U.S. administration by Israel, which has obtained the first installment of the required price by concluding a strategic cooperation agreement.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Is it not one of the results of strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv that some Arab states have begun to seek alliance with the Soviet Union? Is there any doubt that U.S.-Israeli cooperation opens the door to placing the region in the hotbed of international struggle and hastens the explosion of the situation? Is the AWACS deal worth turning cooperation into a political and military strategic alliance between Tel Aviv and Washington or pushing the Palestinian cause several steps backward, at a time when Saudi Arabia has placed this cause among its top priorities, a cause for whose sake Prince Fahd called for holy jihad? Is the AWACS deal worth the statements made in the Congress and U.S. press that these planes will turn Saudi Arabia into a partner in the U.S.-Israeli alliance?

Concluding, it says: The status of Saudi Arabia in the hearts of both the Arabs and Muslims, as well as its international status and political, oil and financial weight, increases our confidence that it will adopt a firm stand and abrogate this deal which has turned into a weapon in the hand of Israel, which strongly opposes it, not because it poses danger to its security as it claims, but in order to use it as a means of pressure against Washington to make it increase its military aid and link U.S. policy with the Zionist entity's interests and objectives.

BRIEFS

DEPARTING DPRK ENVOY--Prime Minister Mudar Badran received today North Korea's ambassador to Jordan on the occasion of the termination of his tour as North Korea's ambassador to Jordan. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 81 JN]

BA'TH OFFICIAL RAPS U.S.-ISRAELI ALLIANCE

JN220842 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Dr Wahib Tannus, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and head of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Bureau, has condemned the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance which is hostile to the Arab nation and its pan-Arab objectives. He said that the recent Reagan-Begin accord embodies a U.S. policy that is aimed at imposing a settlement on the Arabs and liquidating the Palestinian issue.

Addressing the seventh central session for preparing command cadres of the revolution youth organization last night, Dr Tannus reiterated that this strategic alliance between the United States and Israel has exposed all the cards to those Arabs who are shutting their eyes to the true nature of the United States, which will assume a new dimension in the Arab-Zionist struggle.

Comrade Tannus alluded to the new U.S. strategy, adding that this strategy is chiefly aimed at dominating the area and the peoples' wealth and at the destruction of mankind. He said that the present tension engulfing the entire world is a result of U.S. policy and is unprecedented in history. This, Dr Tannus added, makes it incumbent upon all Arabs to reconsider their calculations and to prepare themselves for any emergency.

Reviewing the current Arab situation, Comrade Tannus said that the imperialist onslaught on Syria will be greater in future. He added: We are determined to confront this vicious onslaught irrespective of its ferocity. We will double our resources and exert strenuous efforts to this end for we shoulder the basic responsibility in leading our Arab nation's struggle against the imperialist-Zionist schemes.

Comrade Tannus praised Syria's struggle and its tenacious pan-Arab stands on the central Arab issue, the Palestinian issue. He said: Our party, revolution and leader spared no effort in utilizing all potentials for liberating Palestine and championing the historical rights of the Palestinian people. Hence, U.S. imperialism centered its plots against Syria's steadfastness to weaken it and peddle the Camp David plot which has been rejected by Arab Syria. Syria said no to Camp David, no to the plot and yes to steadfastness and confrontation.

Comrade Tannus said that steadfast Syria has brought this conspiratorial agreement to a blind alley and prompted U.S. imperialism and Zionism to hatch plots against us more ferociously and to motivate their agents and lackeys in the area to strike at our national unity from within via the criminal and murderous gangs of the agent Muslim Brotherhood. He affirmed that Syria has wiped out this conspiratorial link, thanks to the steadfastness of our Arab masses and their progressive forces.

Comrade Tannus praised the popular uprising in Arab Egypt against the regime of hireling As-Sadat, adding that this Egyptian uprising will soon bear fruit. He also praised the Sudanese workers' uprising that portends the imminent collapse of agent Numayri's regime.

AL-BA'TH CALLS FOR 'EXTENSIVE' ANTI-U.S. ACTIONS

JN211022 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Damascus, 21 Sep (SANA)--Today's AL-BA'TH asserted that the qualitative development of U.S.-Israeli relations means doubling the capabilities of the Zionist base and expanding the sphere of its striking force in a manner that will include all the Arab countries from the Taurus mountains to the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

It added that this danger threatens Arab existence itself and directly affects the land and life of every citizen. In the face of this state of overwhelming danger, it said, popular forces everywhere should undertake an effective reply on two levels, by stating their firm stand supporting this aggressive development and by directly confronting U.S. interests.

In a commentary headlined "The Masses' Struggle and the Inevitability of Victory," the newspaper added: The masses throughout the Arab homeland are asked to translate this stand into extensive operations against all forms of U.S. presence and to prove that the Arab revolution forces possess the initiative and can develop various forms of confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist scheme, whose dangers have exacerbated and whose range of action has expanded.

The newspaper noted that heavy Arab bloodshed, still being shed in Lebanon by the hands of treason and agency, is a great incentive for every Arab to assert his indignation and determination to defend his nation. It is also sharp proof that the U.S.-Israeli crime will not end unless it is deterred by punishment.

It pointed out that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's summit stressed the need to reply with all capabilities, believing that the Arab nation's material and human potentials suffice to defeat the aggressors.

In conclusion, the paper stressed that the masses' faith in their fateful cause makes them expose and foil the anesthetization attempts and those of propagating delusions so that they will move to the arena of struggle against intervention and hesitation.

AL-BA'TH URGES ARABS TO CHOOSE SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

PM210933 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 Sep 81 p 1

[Editorial: "America and Direct Hostility to the Arabs"]

[Excerpts] The United States has been anxious to have Israel as a new state to be added to its own states. Although the new U.S. administration has not yet declared such annexation officially, it indicated this when it placed U.S. military, economic, political and cultural capabilities at the disposal of the Zionist leaders in Tel Aviv.

To confirm its desire to be hostile to the Arabs, the United States has entered into a strategic alliance with Israel, which includes its obligation to defend "Israeli security" against forces hostile to Israel.

Since the Arab nation is the major and only party in conflict with the Zionist entity, the U.S. pledges therefore mean a declaration of war on the Arabs, who have been at war with Israel for 30 years.

There is no doubt that the U.S. commitment to Israel is not a new phenomenon in U.S. policy, but the embodying of these commitments in treaties and agreements represents a greater danger and a direct challenge to the Arab nation in all its countries.

In the light of this, Syria's warning to all Arabs of the threat of the U.S. danger makes it incumbent upon the Arabs to realize a fundamental fact relating to their very existence as peoples and countries.

The danger of the new alliance between the United States and Israel is no longer imaginary following its confirmation by the U.S. president and the prime minister of the Zionist entity.

This alliance has underlined what the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and Arab Syria have warned against--that the United States is implementing an Israeli policy and Israel is implementing a U.S. policy.

Based on the premise of this seriously aggressive U.S. policy, the Arab nation must define its options: Either it will submit to the hostile United States or choose a strategic alliance with the friendly Soviet Union--so long as U.S. military and economic weight has added a new strength to Israel, a strength that must be countered by a matching strength consisting first of the unity of the Arabs and, second, choosing genuine friendships.

The Socialist Arab Ba'th Party has realized this fact and reacted to it by changing the prevailing strategy in the area to the advantage of the Arab struggle. It is determined that the decision in the area should be for the masses and that under no circumstances should the United States and Israel be the effective and dominating power.

BEGIN READS CABINET COMMUNIQUE ON U.S. VISIT

TA201123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin reads the communique issued by the Cabinet following its weekly meeting--broadcast live on the Middy Newsreel]

[Text] The Cabinet today took note of the report of the prime minister, the defense minister and the interior minister, and [word indistinct] with the foreign minister who took part in the delegation to the United States and who is now in New York for the UN General Assembly session--on the activities of the Israeli delegation regarding agreement in principle for the establishment of security-strategic cooperation between the United States and the State of Israel; on the expression of unreserved opposition to the sale of sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia, including offensive equipment for F-15 planes and the world's most sophisticated intelligence-gathering planes, AWACS; on Israel's stands regarding renewed autonomy talks; on the situation in Lebanon; and other matters.

SHARON REPORTS TO HERUT ON U.S. VISIT, AWACS

TA211850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Prime Minister Begin did not show up for a scheduled speech at tonight's meeting of his Herut's Party in Tel Aviv because of pains in his knee. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon came in the prime minister's place and spoke to the party about the recent summit talks in Washington. From Tel Aviv, Shim'on Ayalon reports:

[Ayalon--live] Defense Minister Sharon kept stressing a number of points throughout his speech to the Herut Party Central Committee. While Premier Begin has been keeping a fairly low profile on the issue of the U.S. sale of military equipment to the Saudi Arabians, tonight Sharon in no uncertain terms said Israel had not stopped nor slowed down its most vehement opposition to the whole \$8.5 billion arms deal between Washington and Riyadh. The most prominent among the various weapons systems President Reagan wants to sell is the much-discussed AWACS system, five electronic surveillance planes. But Sharon made it clear it was not only the AWACS, but also the additional parts for the F-15's which would extend the Saudi warplanes' range, refueling aircraft and the hundreds of Sidewinder missiles to which Israel objects. Sharon said that Israel would fight this deal right until the last moment.

Another point that Mr Sharon kept stressing was just how the Americans, in his words, really view Israel as an equal among equals not as waiters at the gate with cup in hand--a picture which Sharon said was more true of previous governments.

He took the Labor alignment to task for its criticism of the proposed strategic cooperation agreement recalling agreements the Hagana had entered into in the prestate days of the British administration and what he termed the British-Israeli-French military adventure in 1956, the Sinai campaign. So, Sharon said, the Labor opposition had better shut up when it comes to criticizing strategic agreements with foreign powers. He stressed that Israeli troops would not act as mercenaries for the Americans but, again the phrase, an equal amongst equals fighting a common enemy, the Soviet Union.

Sharon told the central body of his party that the issue of Lebanon had also been on the list of topics discussed in Washington recently, emphasizing the continuous creeping Syrian expansionism there. He recalled that Lebanon provides a base for the Soviet-backed training of international terrorists. Minister Sharon stated that some 1,700 non-Arab terrorists have trained in Lebanese bases in the past year.

Sharon received thunderous applause when he told the Herut members that throughout all the talks in the United States, Premier Menahem Begin had stressed the inalienable right and duty of Jews to settle in any part of the historic land of Israel they saw fit.

MAPAM DENOUNCES U.S.-ISRAELI STRATEGIC COOPERATION

TA201934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Text] MAPAM's Executive Council this evening unanimously denounced the agreements for strategic and military cooperation between Israel and the United States which are, in MAPAM's view, a most dangerous step for Israel's security. The council said the struggle against Soviet hostility toward Israel should be waged on political, diplomatic and informational levels.

PREPARATORY TALKS FOR AUTONOMY MEETING END

TA212018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] The preparatory talks for the ministerial meeting on the autonomy issue ended in Tel Aviv today. The parties agreed on joint proposals for the agenda of the meeting which will take place in Cairo on Wednesday. They also agreed on topics to be raised in the discussions. The Egyptian delegation left for Cairo this evening.

An Interior Ministry delegation will leave for Egypt tomorrow to discuss cooperation with Egypt in the fight against hashish and car smuggling on both sides of the border.

SHARON TO PARTICIPATE IN CAIRO AUTONOMY SESSION

TA211115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will this week participate in the ministerial plenary session dealing with autonomy. The minister's aide, Eli Landau, reported that Minister Sharon will depart for Cairo Wednesday morning along with the ministerial team, which includes Dr Burg, Moshe Nisim and Yehuda Ben-Meir as well.

EMBASSY ADOPTS NEW MEASURES AGAINST AWACS SALE

TA220616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Our correspondent in Washington has reported that the Israeli Embassy yesterday changed its policy on the public struggle over the AWACS deal. Ambassador 'Evron had instructed the embassy personnel to respond to requests by congressmen who are interested in being briefed on Israel's position. The decision was made among other things because the Saudis have been employing a vast briefing network.

MITTERRAND REPORTEDLY TO VISIT IN EARLY 1982

Shamir-Cheysson Meeting

TA212028 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Excerpt] In the meeting today in New York between Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his French counterpart, Claude Cheysson, the former expressed the bitterness of the Israeli government regarding Cheysson's meeting with 'Arafat and at the analogy made between Israel's occupation of the territories on the one hand and the Nazi occupations and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan on the other. The French foreign minister emphasized that he had been misquoted in the media. The Israeli foreign minister also expressed his disappointment over the fact that President Mitterrand--who is known for his close relations with Israel--has not yet done anything to strengthen these relations.

At the end of the meeting, a Mitterrand visit to Israel was officially announced.

[Begin Shamir videotape] As a result of the talk between myself and French Foreign Minister Cheysson on the entire spectrum of our relations and on the various statements made by the French foreign minister during his visits [to the Middle East] and after he explained France's positions as well as his own, we decided to continue the dialogue and to exchange opinions by means of high-level official French visits to Israel in the near future. In the communique to be published today we will announce the upcoming visit of French President Mitterrand to Jerusalem. The visit will apparently take place at the beginning of next year. We will also announce the visit of Foreign Minister Cheysson, which will take place at an earlier date. [end videotape]

Shamir Hopes for Improved Relations

TA220635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed in New York by U.S. correspondent on 21 September, following his meeting with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson--recorded]

[Text] I hope this will be the beginning of improved relations between us and France. It should be a beginning and a new chapter. However, naturally we will have to see how this is actually implemented. We have agreed that in order to begin an exchange of views and serious talks on the entire spectrum of issues of interest to both countries it is first of all necessary to hold a dialogue. There must be direct contact, and the best way to do this will be through mutual visits of national figures. We agreed that we will start this by deciding that the French president--who has, in fact, already been invited by the prime minister--would arrive in Israel soon, I presume at the beginning of next year. By saying the beginning of next year, I mean the beginning of 1982. Earlier, this visit will be preceded by a visit by Foreign Minister Cheysson, which will probably be held in early December.

JOINT JORDANIAN-PLO COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEET

TA220609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] There has been some reaction to the Defense Ministry initiative to effect changes in the organization of the military government in the territories. The joint Jordanian-PLO Committee yesterday urged the inhabitants of the territories to continue their opposition to Israeli rule and to object to the establishment of agricultural unions. This was stated at the end of a meeting intended to find ways to help the local inhabitants. Here is a report by our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus:

[Begin recording] The main issues that the committee members dealt with was how to help the inhabitants of the territories economically, in view of Israel's decision to ban committee funds. This was the committee's 17th meeting. As one may recall, the committee was established in 1978 after the Baghdad conference. Jordan was represented by the minister for the affairs of the conquered land, Hasan Ibrahim, and high-ranking PLO officials such as Khalil al-Wazir--or Abu Jihad, the head of the military branch. 'Arafat's adviser, Hani al-Hasan, also participated.

The joint committee thus decided to find ways to bypass the Israeli ban on receiving funds from it, and further decided to establish a fund to aid civil servants and municipal employees who had begun their employment after 1967 and who have not received Jordanian salaries so far.

At the end of its deliberations, the committee called on the inhabitants of the territories to oppose the agricultural unions by means of which, so the resolution reads, Israel wishes to fortify its hold on the territories.

In parallel, King Husayn yesterday summoned the supreme committee for the affairs of the conquered land. This is a Jordanian committee that deals with the affairs of the territories. In his opening address, King Husayn said that Jordan would devote maximum efforts toward helping the inhabitants of the territories and pledged his word in the eyes of the world, as well, to take action to retrieve Jerusalem into Arab control. This is what King Husayn said. His prime minister, Mudar Badran, attacked the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel in his speech yesterday before the National Advisory Committee. He said this was a blow to moderate countries like Jordan. [end recording]

NUCLEAR FUEL ROD EMBARGO, VIENNA MEETING DISCUSSED

TA211848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] For 5 years a total embargo has been in effect on supplying nuclear fuel rods to Israel and, therefore, the Nahal Soreq reactor has been using rods from old stock, which is quickly being used up. Tzvi Lidar, our correspondent at the International Atomic Energy Commission meeting in Vienna, says foreign sources maintain that the nuclear fuel reserves in the reactor will be enough for another 5 or, at most, 6 years.

Our correspondent notes that the United States still abides by the embargo initiated by President Carter when he took office. He instituted the embargo in order to pressure Israel into signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. By Washington's order, for 3 years France has been holding a fuel rod that had been sent from Israel to France for maintenance work. That rod alone could have extended the activity of Nahal Soreq reactor by a number of years.

The director of the Israeli Nuclear Energy Commission, 'Uzi 'Eylam, said that if Israel is expelled from the international commission, no real damage will be caused. Some political damage may, however, be caused because a suspension constitutes a dangerous precedent. 'Eylam told Lidar that if the technical aid the international commission has been extending is stopped, Israeli scientists will no longer be given research grants and their access to work by colleagues from throughout the world will only be possible through indirect means.

The Iraqi representative at the Vienna meeting today called for the expulsion of Israel and warned that if this is not done, Baghdad will draw conclusions. People in Vienna interpreted this as meaning that Iraq will not allow representatives of the international commission to inspect its nuclear installations.

DAVAR COMMENTARY ON GOLAN DRUZE SITUATION

TA211256 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Sep 81 pp 5, 8

[Shim'on Weiss commentary: "The Golan Druze: Polarization and Its Reasons"]

[Excerpts] It seems as though we have not--since the 6-Day War, when the Golan Heights were conquered--had such disconcerting information on what is happening in the five Druze villages in the north of the Golan. At the same time, it is doubtful whether there are many who really know what is happening in the undercurrents behind the closed windows of the stone buildings in the villages.

Some lay the blame personally on the military governor, an army officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, who has long served in the north and who for the last 3 years has been serving as the Golan Heights military governor. He is being blamed for the helplessness and lack of sophistication in handling the Druze villages. Instead of slowly winning over Israel supporters on the Golan--and not through tangible benefits that serve as the red cloth that is waved at the eyes of Israel's opponents--he neglects those who explicitly express total faith in Israel. Also, he does not seem to take the right action vis-a-vis opponents. This is one of the reasons for the heavy pressure being applied on Israel's supporters. There have been increasing reports that many holders of the blue identification cards are now looking for ways to get rid of them. Even if this report should be found to be exaggerated, it is nevertheless symptomatic and points to the success of the network of threats and instigation against Israel on the Golan.

A man close to the Druze, an inhabitant of the one of the Galilee panhandle settlements, maintains that the source of polarization against Israel among the Druze is internal power struggles among the villagers. Shaykh Sulayman Kanj, the spiritual leader of the Golan Druze is no longer that young (although his exact age is not known, he is believed to be somewhere in his eighties). Everyone on the Golan knows this well. One of the ambitious, hardworking leaders among the Druze is Muhsayn Abu Salah, the head of the Mas'ada local council and a fervent supporter of Israel who is not known as a notable cleric. Abu Salah had hoped to obtain the honorable post of the head of the Druze sect on the Golan by waving the banner of closeness to Israel, its rule and its military governor--of course, only after Kanj retires. Some tactical errors and particularly the miscomprehension the elderly Shaykh Sulayman's real power have put Abu Salah in difficulties and today at least he cannot overcome them and has remained with support in Israel, but without the support of his fellow villagers. He simply acted too quickly and prematurely. The old shaykh was not beholden, and in order to show his strength he revealed his power--and more so his views--on Israel, and they united the majority of the clerics and the youngsters in the village against Israel, in favor of Syrian rule and in particular in support of the continued leadership of Shaykh Sulayman Kanj. This is an interesting and not impossible theory.

Be that as it may, there is currently no question as to who has the upper hand now in the Kanj-Abu Salah struggle. Israel, at any rate, did not benefit from this and the question is only whether or not Shaykh Kanj will continue to display his real strength.

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT INCREASE--Israel's trade deficit between January and June 1981 grew by 10 percent and reached \$1,351 billion, compared to \$1,231 billion in the same period last year. It stems from excess imports over exports, \$76 million versus \$44 million. The net exports of goods in the first 6 months in 1981 amounted to \$2,653 billion, compared to \$2,697 billion last year. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 81 p 3 TA]

FOREIGN MINISTRY APPOINTMENT-- Deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Arad, has been appointed acting inspector general and deputy director general for special assignments. This post was previously held by Israel's ambassador to Sweden, Avragan Avidar. Arad has just returned from a year of study in the United States. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Sep 81 p 5 TA]

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY-- The scope of the government's real financial activity between April and August 1981 exceeded the planned budget by about 10 percent. This was possible due to the fact that the budget had been calculated according to an over-estimation of the expected rate of inflation for 1981 as well as to an excessively high estimate of using up the 1980 budget. This accounts for the surplus demand and the range of government money injection during those months. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Sep 81 p 2 TA]

ELECTRICITY RATES UP--The Knesset's finance committee today approved the Energy Ministry's request to increase the cost of electricity in the wake of the recent hike in fuel prices. The electricity rates will go up by 12 percent, retroactive to 7 September. This price increase does not take into account the cumulative deficit in the price of electricity, which now totals approximately 3 billion shekels. The committee did not grant the Agriculture Ministry's request to increase the price of water for home consumption by about 17 percent. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Sep 81 TA]

LIBYATEXT OF DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEW WITH AL-QADHDHAFI

DW210929 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 21 Sep 81 pp 148-156

[Editors Adel S. Elias, Johannes K. Engel, and Wolf Dieter Steinbauer "2-hour" interview with Libya's Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in his Bedouin tent in the desert town of Sabha; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in the West in general and in the United States in particular you are considered to be the world's most dangerous man. Do you feel this is justified?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It depends on what is meant by dangerous.

SPIEGEL: The Americans interpret this to mean really dangerous because they are convinced that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi--barring the Russians--is the biggest troublemaker who backs any revolt, especially here in Africa.

Moreover, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has now threatened to attack the U.S. nuclear bases in the Mediterranean--even at the risk of creating an international catastrophe and triggering World War III--if the U.S. 6th Fleet shows up in the Gulf of Sidra off the Libyan coast again.

Al-Qadhdhafi: All I can do is explain to you why the United States has used this description of the most dangerous man: What is involved is merely political and psychological preparation for Libya's conquest. The United States intends to attack Libya and subject it to its domination again.

SPIEGEL: So you don't simply believe that according to Reagan's script you are the cowboy wearing a black hat, the villain. You mean to contend in all earnestness that the Americans intend to attack and conquer Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is what I believe.

SPIEGEL: How is one to visualize the conquest of Libya nowadays? What you are voicing is a monstrous suspicion.

Al-Qadhdhafi: There are various methods, yet all of them would be aimed at subjugating Libya and including it again in the U.S. sphere of influence. This does not require the direct occupation of the country by troops. It would be sufficient to overthrow the revolutionary regime here and to replace it with another, with a pro-American regime. This is one method used by U.S. imperialism. This is what I meant when I referred to the plans of conquest by the Americans.

SPIEGEL: Did you have this in mind when you said in your 1 September speech that the Americans had tried to poison you?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course, the Americans did that. They have to get me out of the way to attain their objectives. This insidious plan hatched by the U.S. president with his CIA to eliminate me was another step on the road toward getting control of Libya.

SPIEGEL: It is a fact that in early August the U.S. press reported on a CIA operation plan aimed at driving you from office. This plan was submitted to the Select Committee on Intelligence, and intelligence service committee of the House of Representatives, and it had been approved by CIA boss Casey and the crisis management team of the White House.

Members of the committee then sent an outraged letter of protest directly to Ronald Reagan since the plans seemed to reveal that an assassination attempt was planned against Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Nothing was said about poisoning, however. What do you know about all this?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I became aware of the clues only afterwards. Just prior to the revelation of these plans, many U.S. visitors called on me as journalists, businessmen and politicians. All of them suddenly showed interest in talking with me. I found out only afterwards that this had been done on the instructions of the CIA to determine my living habits--where I sleep, where I live and what I do.

Hints also arrived from the United States--from friends of Arab origin who meanwhile have become U.S. citizens and who more or less perhaps worked for the CIA or were supposed to be recruited by the CIA.

These people had already noticed that the CIA was developing more activities toward Libya. They let me know that information about my eating habits was being gathered. They warned me: Watch your food and whomever serves it. You should not eat directly; have your food and beverages tested first.

At the time I did not take these reports seriously because I did not think that the United States would pursue such insidious plans with the participation of its president.

The campaign against me and my policy then intensified. I was held responsible for any evil deed that took place in the world; I was seen behind any terrorist act. When they realized that they were not making any headway with their plan to poison me, they suddenly decided to close our people's bureau in Washington...

SPIEGEL: ...that is, your embassy...

Al-Qadhdhafi: ...to deport the personnel and to sever relations with us totally. Then they tried to put one over on me in the Gulf of Sidra.

SPIEGEL: To us this naturally sounds like a wild tale. But unfortunately we cannot but say that the CIA plans to eliminate Fidel Castro, details of which become known in Washington a few years ago, likewise sounded like a wild tale. They wanted to get at him with the help of poisoned shoestrings or poisoned cigars.

Al-Qadhdhafi: These facts cannot be denied. It is also a fact that they tried to kill me.

Martin Luther King, Allende and Lumumba are on the account of the CIA--so why should it hesitate to add me to this record?

SPIEGEL: We cannot vouch for that list. But a lot is possible where the CIA is concerned, and this even excited the American public. On the other hand, what also shocked us in Europe, is that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has threatened to attack the U.S. 6th Fleet if and when it shows up again in the Gulf of Sidra, and to create an international catastrophe, if necessary. Have you lost all sense of perspective?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Nonsense. What I meant to say by that is the following: Some units of the U.S. 6th Fleet are carrying nuclear bombs. If the Americans attack us in the Gulf of Sidra, I must consider that they will attack us with nuclear bombs as well.

In this case I have the right to defend my people and my country by attacking the NATO bases in southeastern Europe where these nuclear bomb carriers originate before they even reach us. If we had the option of destroying these bases or ships, we would do it.

SPIEGEL: You would really be prepared to attack U.S. or NATO bases in Greece, Italy or Spain?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Understand me correctly. I did not say I wanted to attack Greece, Italy or Spain. I said: If I found that an American attack originated from these bases, and if I had the opportunity to eliminate them, I would not hesitate to destroy them.

SPIEGEL: There is probably no room here for realism. Border quarrels, such as that in connection with your territorial waters, exist everywhere in the world--for example, between Japan and Russia, China and India and so forth. So far nobody has threatened an international catastrophe in this connection. You are the first head of state to do this.

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are not neighbors of America. We have no border quarrels.

SPIEGEL: Territorial waters are involved here.

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have no quarrels about territorial waters either. We consider the action of the Americans in the Gulf of Sidra to be pure aggression. The Americans have lost nothing in our country. We are not their neighbors. Therefore, we do not consider the term border conflict to be valid.

SPIEGEL: What is involved is adherence to a 3-mile zone or a 12-mile zone which was always accepted or respected by the Americans. The Americans were outside this zone in international waters.

Al-Qadhdhafi: That is not true. We have not extended the territorial waters to 12 miles. Sidra is a security zone for us. I do not want to determine how far from the coast the territorial waters exist for me. But I say: The Gulf of Sidra is an indispensable part of Libya. Whoever penetrates it, threatens us. This area is indispensable for our security.

Our factories and industrial installations are there, and our oil ports--from which we supply oil to the whole world--are there. Whoever enters the Gulf of Sidra must know that he has entered Libyan territory and is illegally on Libyan territory.

Whoever enters the Gulf of Sidra has declared war on us. That pertains not only to the Americans but to everybody, regardless of who he is. That matter has been finally decided and I will not deviate from the decision.

SPIEGEL: You said that you would even accept a world war. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, a serious question to you: Could you imagine that you could be guilty for World War III?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Since when is the one defending his country considered to be someone unleashing wars? If we accepted that, nobody would defend his country any more. I do not unleash wars. I do not want war; I want to defend my country. America claims to be civilized and polite. If the Americans have a conflict with me and believe that I am wrong, why didn't they go to the United Nations, the Security Council, the International Court or the UN Law of the Sea conference?

SPIEGEL: Why didn't you go to the United Nations or appeal to the Security Council when the Americans entered the Gulf of Sidra?

Al-Qadhdhafi: America does not need the Gulf of Sidra at all. America can live without the Gulf of Sidra. I cannot understand why America decided to play world policeman and set an precedence in the Gulf of Sidra. That is no reason for me to go to the United Nations.

SPIEGEL: Did you realize that the Americans had planned their Gulf of Sidra action from the very beginning as a showdown--that can be seen from the plans?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I can tell you one thing: After this attack by the Americans, I feel much stronger in my country and my regime is stronger than before. All of Arabia supported me. Some 80 states officially confirmed and supported my demands.

I can also tell you something that is still unknown: I received official letters from Greece, Italy, Spain, France and many West European countries, telling me that I was right and that they do not see why the Americans started playing with fire.

Many European countries even told me officially that they recognize the Gulf of Sidra as a Libyan security zone.

It seems to me that the Americans and some of their allies are so dumb and stupid that they have not learned anything from the lessons of history. Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir became a hero only when the West Europeans waged war against him in 1956 at the Suez Canal. If they want to make me the hero of the Arabs here, the Americans should just continue what they are doing. I have nothing against this. On the contrary I even welcome it.

SPIEGEL: Then the next conflict seems to be already programmed because America, as a maritime nation, will insist on its interpretations of territorial waters.

Al-Qadhdhafi: That is a problem for the Americans, not us.

SPIEGEL: What political lessons have you learned from this confrontation? Must you make new alliance policy orientations? Little Libya cannot hope to have a chance alone against the 6th Fleet, the most powerful naval combat unit in the Mediterranean. Do you want conduct some rapprochement toward the Soviets?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is not necessary for us to run to the Soviet Union and say: Protect us from the Americans.

We figure that America, as a big power, will not show much concern for us because we are a small country. But you in the West should know one thing most exactly. We will not shrink back one bit from our demands in the Gulf of Sidra.

SPIEGEL: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, do you have the means to implement these demands?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is not a question whether I can defeat America. Every one knows about each other's strength. I just want to make the following clear: One must not shrink back if one is right.

What kind of logic would it be otherwise? Everybody who is weaker would have to shut up, if the Americans wanted it. If I don't have the strength to implement my rights, it does not mean that I don't have any.

At any rate we have military strength. Even if we cannot defeat America, the Americans must not believe that they can finish us off just like that.

SPIEGEL: Initially people in the United States were inclined not to take your threats seriously. The word in Washington is that, peculiarly enough, after the Gulf of Sidra incident you did not apply the only effective weapon you have, namely, the oil weapon. After all, you could have cut off the 10 percent of the imported oil that the Americans obtain from Libya. Why did you not do this?

Al-Qadhdhafi (laughing): It makes no difference to me whether they take this seriously or not. If need be we will apply the oil weapon. The United States is playing a very stupid game when it plays with fire in the middle of a crude oil region.

SPIEGEL: When Ronald Reagan was elected president you said that you were glad that Carter, who is "naive," "ignorant," and "particularly loathsome," was out of the way. Reagan, in contrast, is "more serious," you said, and the American Republicans are closer to you than the Democrats. You have probably changed this view in the meantime, have you not?

Al-Qadhdhafi: After all, I turned out to be right on what I said about Jimmy Carter--that he is stupid and naive. Otherwise he would have been reelected.

I did not, of course, give preference to Reagan as a person but to the Republican Party and its program, because several points seemed to us to be better than what the Democrats had.

SPIEGEL: This amazes us because Reagan also stood for an antisocial, stepped-up arms program.

Al-Qadhdhafi: You are right on that score. But I cannot imagine Reagan being able to sustain his arms buildup for long. He had demanded weapons at the expense of the social sector to gain more votes.

This was a political chess game. It was not wise. But if you ask me specifically, then I say that what we see in the so-called democratic world is comedies. At their core most democracies are nothing but demagoguery. Everybody tries to seduce everyone else by saying: "I am the better man." Yet, one is worse than the other. What the two parties staged during the election campaign was nothing but scorn for the commonsense and intelligence of the people.

Many promises are made, which later turn out to be empty. It is as with a drum in the bush: When you first hear the sound you think it is a huge drum but once you come closer, it is just a little fart.

SPIEGEL: It is generally known that you ridicule the Western democracies, and in your latest speech you also said of President Reagan that he is an unsuccessful, third-rate actor. Did you ever see him in the movies?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally, and also on Libyan television.

SPIEGEL: Were Reagan pictures shown there?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Just imagine, we showed these films on television because we refused to believe that such an actor could become the President of the United States. We were convulsed with laughter. (laughing) We have these films run again now for the merriment of the people.

SPIEGEL: Objection: In our country Reagan had been classified one grade higher as an actor. But this does not necessarily say anything about the political quality of a man because Harry Truman, for instance, was definitely a second-rate haberdasher but later became a first-rate president.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I have no objection to anybody engaging in the profession of his choice. A profession is something honest and honorable. Nothing can be said against anybody earning money through his profession and raising his family. What I find fault with, however, is this: As an actor, Reagan is unsuccessful and third-rate...

SPIEGEL: ...but he did earn his living that way over many years.

Al-Qadhdhafi: ...so that he has a inferiority complex and is inclined to take unpredictable actions for the sake of compensating for this complex. This is even true for the Sidra action by which he intended to compensate for his lack of success as an actor.

SPIEGEL: It is characteristic of the situation that in the United States, the actions of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi are likewise attributed to inferiority complexes.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Why, was I an actor? I have no need to compensate for complexes.

I would like to remind you of something else, by the way, and maybe your Western world will learn from this: American imperialism and Zionism sought to overthrow 'Abd an-Nasir. He died when the Lord so willed. The more plans the Americans hatched, the more solid its adversaries became. Castro outlived three U.S. presidents, and if they continue as they do have been I will outlive several presidents as well.

SPIEGEL: So you expect to die in bed or in a tent some day?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is for the Lord to decide, not me.

SPIEGEL: Did you actually expect Reagan to set his sights on you as the main villain so soon? From visits to your country, Americans brought home the impression that you obviously were very perplexed and confused by the hostility of the Reagan government. You even told an American visitor in private: "I love the Americans, and would very much like to visit the country, not just the deserts but all of America."

Al-Qadhdhafi: The course of action of the U.S. Government, and above all of the president, naturally took me by surprise because I harbor no hatred for the Americans. No people hates another. I like the Americans very much.

I would also like the President if he were not against freedom, if he didn't oppress the people and if he didn't pursue any imperialist goals. In that case I would not have any conflict at all with him.

May I return to the personality of Reagan?

SPIEGEL: Yes, because it seems to occupy your mind.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am seriously afraid that the inferiority complex Reagan suffers from might cause a global disaster. I am afraid that Reagan has not gotten rid of this dual role because he probably still thinks he is on stage, on the world stage, to play some role.

He believes that everything will turn out well, as in his films, because he is just an actor. He has not yet become fully aware that he is president now and no longer an actor. This is why I am afraid that he might cause a global catastrophe because he still plays his role as an actor and considers the world a mere stage.

SPIEGEL: That is how the sides see each other. The Americans fear that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi could touch off a catastrophe, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi fears that Reagan could touch off a catastrophe.

Al-Qadhdhafi: On the contrary. I am not a third-rate actor. In contrast to him, I have tradition, I have roots and I have self-confidence. I have brought about a revolutionary movement; I have made a revolution. I was able to achieve the position I have now only through long and hard work. Reagan was an actor. He just dreamed of becoming president some day, and now his dream has come true.

SPIEGEL: But he persevered doggedly and in a tough way. That is some sort of quality for a politician.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Well, maybe, but he remains what he was, an unsuccessful third-rate actor. I am a revolutionary, however, and have made a revolution. Reagan just represents the peak of a rotten capitalist society where everybody is prepared to make promises just to be elected.

SPIEGEL: This rotten society, however, still has a lot of vitality.

Al-Qadhdhafi: That may be correct today, but the system cannot be maintained forever.

SPIEGEL: Capitalism has proven to be very tough so far. May we get back to your recent speech? You said that America hates Islam, that America defends the religion of alcohol, palaces, prostitution and female slaves.

One could counter this by saying America has pursued a policy of interests, just as you have when you supported and tried to save the murderous regime of Idi Amin for political interests. Would you recognize this parallel?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Could be, you are right. Everybody looks after his own interests. Why not? We have nothing against the Americans defending their interests, but not at the expense of ours. They should please take into consideration the fact that we are not prepared to sacrifice our interests so that the Americans can follow theirs.

SPIEGEL: Let us discuss Libya's action in Chad.

Al-Qadhdhafi: OK.

SPIEGEL: You have always said that nobody has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Why did you interfere in Chad? In doing this, you have provoked half of Africa and are paying a high political price for it.

Al-Qadhdhafi: It seems to me that you are ignoring one aspect and that you intentionally do not want to say what really happened in Chad. If you have already taken a certain position from the very beginning, I do not want to try to influence your position. But if you were prepared to really understand what is going on in Chad, I would like to discuss it with you.

SPIEGEL: Please.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I consider your question--saying that we interfered in Chad--to be not objective. I think it is subjective and unjust. The Chad conflict had been going on for 11 years and we did not interfere at all.

We marched in when President Goukouni came to us. We did not bring him here by force. He came to Libya voluntarily, and concluded a defense pact with us. He asked us to help him militarily to reestablish law and order in his country. We agreed to his oral, written, as well as official, request.

SPIEGEL: Is that your story?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes.

SPIEGEL: But before that you supported the man who is now the opponent of your current favorite, Goukouni, namely Hisssein Habre. How come this change of sides took place?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What we have done--first we supported the Frolinat liberation movement with arms, money and all other possible means. One they had come to power, we said: Well now, there is no need to support them any more; now they must act on their own.

When Frolinat split between Habre and Goukouni, it was their business. We maintained restraint. We invaded only when we were asked officially.

SPIEGEL: Is that in accordance with reports saying that you want to extend your influence further in Africa? This is indicated by the fact that you are offering Chad a merger with Libya, planning to bring about state unity of both countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi: What is wrong with unity between Chad and Libya? The OAU Charter says that African unity should be implemented. If the union really came about some day, it would be a stabilizing factor. Would you rather prefer daily unrest in some corner of Africa? The union would provide for good economic and political cooperation.

SPIEGEL: There is uranium in Chad, is not that so?

Al-Qadhdhafi: There is no uranium in Chad. But if you are so piqued about our being in Chad, why were you not so piqued when the Tanzanians invaded Uganda, or when Senegalese troops invaded Gambia? You were not piqued either about the action of the French and the Moroccans in Zaire.

SPIEGEL: One should not imitate bad examples.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally these are bad examples. But why didn't you protest as strongly as you do to me?

SPIEGEL: Maybe because Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi is such a puzzling figure. If he does something like that, one takes a closer look at it.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Why am I such a puzzling person to you? I am no villain. All I do is fight for freedom and against oppression. Is that something bad? On the contrary, if you had a conscience, you ought to support and not attack me.

SPIEGEL: We would like to once again return to an issue about which you have been questioned very often: the Islamic nuclear bomb, the production of which you are allegedly involved in. You appealed to the Arabs to destroy the Israeli nuclear research center in Dimona in retaliation for the Israeli attack on the Iraqi reactor, but also to prevent the construction of an Israeli nuclear bomb. Would it not be more logical along the lines of power policy for the Arabs to work on a nuclear weapon themselves, since you believe that the Israelis are working on one?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am against the production of nuclear arms throughout the world. People have never been more criminal than at the time when they invented the atom bomb and used it.

For that reason I say: The Dimona installation must be destroyed for the sake of mankind. Possession of nuclear bombs means destruction of the people. It must be destroyed before matters have developed that far. I am firmly convinced that Israel has a nuclear bomb.

SPIEGEL: Has it already?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, because the Israelis do not permit anybody--not the International Atomic Energy Agency or any one--else to make inspections there. They have something to hide.

SPIEGEL: Let us discuss your Moscow visit. You supported German unity there. That passage was not published in the Soviet statement. Was there any difference of opinion in this respect?

Al-Qadhdhafi (laughs): I demanded German unity not just there; I do that on every international occasion. I demand German unity wherever I am. The German nation is in an unnatural situation now and the Germans have the right to live alone in their country.

SPIEGEL: You said in your speech on the 12th anniversary of the revolution that you are getting the German people who have now become awake; bombs are exploding every day at American bases. Do you realize that in saying this, you are greeting just a handful of people who we consider terrorists? The majority of German who reject Reagan's counterarmament want to fight it with political means.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally, I welcome it very much if one can achieve more with political means than with bombs. Germany is in a rather difficult situation at the moment. Reagan's policy means in the end that the Germans must sacrifice themselves for American interests.

SPIEGEL: The situation in central Europe actually has always been dangerous if you bear in mind the number of nuclear weapons deployed there on a very small territory. But the public has realized it just now--some 4,000 nuclear arms in the Federal Republic alone.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Not just the Germans, but all of West Europe is in danger. If there were no American bases in West Europe, the superpowers would have to fight their war. If there ever is one, with navies and air forces in their own territory. But since there are bases in West Europe, the West Europeans are in even more danger than before of becoming victims of the superpowers.

SPIEGEL: On the other hand, however, the balance of power in Europe has brought us a very long period of peace, longer than most periods of peace in European history.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, that is true, you have lived in peace but on a powder keg that could explode at any minute.

SPIEGEL: Well, this is alright if the fuse on the powder keg is not burning.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Who can guarantee that the fuse will not be lit some day?

SPIEGEL: That's the question.

Al-Qadhdhafi: If a third world war occurs, which I wholeheartedly hope does not happen, the Europeans definitely will suffer most among all peoples.

SPIEGEL: If any great war occurs again at all, it would emerge in the area of the oil states rather than in central Europe, and it will rather break out as a result of errors and erroneous assessments, and as a result of an escalation nobody wants.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Many thanks for your efforts to export your wars to us.

SPIEGEL: Our last question pertains to the Americans. In highly colorful language you said in your speech on the 12th anniversary of the revolution that you have farted on the United States a thousand times. Could you imagine yourself seeking rapprochement with the United States some day for reasons of political commonsense?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course. We have always said that if there is a reasonable policy which makes allowances for the interests of both sides, we would be prepared to do that, but not at our expense. We have really tried to have good relations with the United States. But the United States is not willing to have them at this time. Well, if the United States does not want them, then I fart on the United States once again.

Through DER SPIEGEL I would like to address my words to the Americans: They should ponder Reagan's policy for a change. What he is doing is not in the interests of the American people. I am not interested in living in hostility with the American people.

I repeat once again: I do not wish to live in hostility with the United States, but neither do I wish to crawl on all fours before the United States.

SPIEGEL: Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, thank you for this interview.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The plans to poison me, after all, were a scandal. The fact that the President is involved in them is a scandal.

SPIEGEL: Do you know that people in the United States take very seriously the assassination threats directed against Reagan by your league of free officers?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I would like to set something straight here once and for all, so that people will quit talking about it. Our officers made that threat only after Reagan's assassination plans against me became known. Then they said: If you do that, your number will be up, too. I make no secret of the fact that revolutionary committees all over the world might take some action if something happened to me.

I address my words to the American people. The playing with fire by the Americans here, and the shifting fleets back and forth, is no sandtable game. It might become very dangerous indeed. The Americans should prevent their president from playing with fire.

JANA ON EGYPTIAN, SUDANESE AGGRESSION AGAINST CHAD

LD221006 Tripoli JANA in English 0828 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--The ruling regime in Egypt yesterday openly contradicted itself and implicitly admitted that it was planning to launch an aggression against the Jamahiriya and Chad.

An official spokesman for the regime's Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon issued a statement distributed by the official Egyptian news agency in which he claimed that Egypt did not take part in the aggressive attacks made against the Chadian people. He also indicated that he had received the accusations the Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei made against the Egyptian regime. The spokesman also claimed that the Egyptian Government was committed to the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and that the statements made by the Chadian president, were, as he alleged, Libyan propaganda.

JANA's political editor commented on the statements made by the official spokesman for the Egyptian regime's Foreign Ministry and said: "These statements correspond with the allegations of the Sudanese regime which tried to deny its shameful role in the aggression against the Chadian people. The Egyptian-Sudanese allegations cannot be accepted as a pretext to justify the stands of the two regimes which constantly and publicly announce that they will strike at the Libyan Arab and Chadian peoples."

The political editor added: "The concentration of Egyptian troops in the Junaynah region of the Chadian borders, and in the (Damazine) and (Sawakan) regions and others, and also the military airlift to transport military equipment to airfields and military positions near the Chadian borders clearly indicate that the Egyptian regime is planning an aggression either against the Chadian people or the Libyan people which are one and the same."

The political editor affirmed that the despotic autocratic leaderships in Egypt and Sudan are attempting to keep their masks on. However, he added, there is no need to wait for the masks to drop for these statements are well understood if we read between the lines. He said: "Our past experience corroborates our accusations against these two hiring regimes sorting U.S. political interests in the region. At all events, we are well aware of the plans being prepared for aggression by these two regimes and of the incentives behind these conspiracies."

No matter how must As-Sadat attempts to disavow the Chadian president's accusations, the political editor continued, he cannot fool people by his underhandedness and hypocrisy. "If he is, as he claims, concerned with the unity of the Chadian people, he has not allowed this people the right to live freely, especially after its state of exhaustion at the end of the war. However, this was provided by the Libyan people who assisted generously to consolidate the Chadian people's freedom and struggle while the As-Sadat and Numayri regimes stood [word indistinct] from their lofty towers...."

Moreover, As-Sadat's claim to adherence to the O.A.U. resolution is utterly groundless.... These are distortions put forward by the two regimes.... Facts and reality, however, indicate a totally different direction. For, the two regimes officially declared opposition to the resolutions passed by the 18th O.A.U. summit in Nairobi. They launched a vicious media campaign against the African heads of states who participated in the conference and who were in favour of the presence of the Libyan forces in Chad and expressed its legitimacy. This was endorsed in an official position when the Jamahiriya was chosen as the headquarter for the next O.A.U. summit meeting.... This is a true condemnation of the treacherous Egyptian regime and the shaking general's regime in the Sudan."

CHADREQUEST MADE TO OAU TO PREVENT SUDANESE AGGRESSION

AB211704 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Paris, 21 Sep (AFP)--Chad has called on the Organisation of African Unity to prevent Sudanese military aggression across the border, the Chadian Embassy here said today.

A statement from the Embassy said that Chad's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) had requested OAU Chairman and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi to use his influence on Khartoum. The statement said the Ndjamena authorities would be obliged to use their right of hot pursuit across the Sudanese border. The Embassy statement also accused Sudan of shooting down a Libyan reconnaissance plane over the Chadian border town of Adre just before the attack on our territory.

The destruction of the plane was claimed by Hissene Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN), which also said they had captured Adre, Iriba and Guereda.

But today's statement said all three towns were now back in government hands. The enemy left on the field 567 dead, 234 prisoners and a large quantity of heavy and light equipment, it added.

CONGOMEMBERSHIP INTO INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION ACCEPTED

AB182023 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 18 Sep 81

[Text] Congo has just been admitted as a full member to the Interparliamentary Union. On 14 September, during its 38th session held in Havana, Cuba, the Union unanimously approved by acclamation the membership of the People's Assembly--our parliamentary institution--in the international union.

The Congolese delegation, which is made up of Comrade Michel (Drabadou Bado), the first secretary; Medar Momengoh, the Congolese ambassador in Cuba and Jean-Pierre Ngueka, a permanent undersecretary, presented to the conference our viewpoints and the aspirations and objectives our country wishes to attain through its parliament within the framework of unity. Unity--as the word indicates--aims at facilitating personal contacts among all the members of all the national parliaments and assembling them for a common action with the view to strengthening and developing these representative institutions.

The Interparliamentary Union has 90 members, 29 of which come from the African Continent. Zimbabwe, Uganda, Benin, Guyana and Peru were admitted into the Union at the same time as Congo.

GABONOMAR BONGO OPPOSES IDEA OF OAU FORCE IN CHAD

AB212044 Paris AFP in French 1734 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] Libreville, 21 Sep (AFP)--Mr Omar Bongo, Gabonese head of state, said in Libreville today during an interview with AFP, that he was opposed to the sending of a neutral force to Chad under the auspices of the OAU.

Mr Bongo therefore shares a similar stand with his Cameroonian counterpart, Mr Amadou Ahidjo, who has always opposed the setting up of such a force in Ndjamena. The two presidents, whose states play an important role in the evolution of Central Africa and who follow developments in the Chadian situation very closely, are convinced that the pan-African organization does not have the material means to attain such an objective. Mr Ahidjo has said several times that it is only the United Nations which can successfully organize the sending of a neutral force to Chad and maintain it there.

For his part, Mr Bongo stressed that in his opinion an integrated national army must be immediately trained in Chad and that massive financial aid must be given to the Ndjamena authorities toward this end. Gabon has been helping and will continue to help Chad in this field, Mr Bongo said.

The Gabonese president recalled that in 1978 he suggested to his OAU peers that an inter-African security force should be created, but they rejected this. The subsequent sending of a military contingent to Chad composed of Nigerian, Beninois and Congolese troops was totally inefficient and did not prevent the bloody battle of Ndjamena that was fought between the troops of Hissene Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, Mr Bongo said. I do not have any Gabonese soldiers to send to Chad, the Gabonese head of state added.

Mr Bongo refrained from condemning Libya's attitude toward Chad. On the contrary, he congratulated it for decisively backing Mr Goukouni Oueddei's forces, and added that he had since asked Colonel al-Qadhafi to withdraw his army from Chad. He emphasized that he understood Mr Oueddei's stand on relations with Tripoli, as Libya constitutes a solid rampart against Hissene Habre's guerrillas.

President Bongo also disclosed that he had invited Goukouni Oueddei to meet Hissene Habre in Gabon, but nevertheless pointed out that no contact had been made with the rebel leader in this regard and that such a move had little chance of succeeding. Perhaps relations between both men have reached a point of no return, although politically everything is always possible, Mr Bongo said. Libya, Egypt and Sudan must stop supporting the opposing parties and then Mr Oueddei and Mr Habre will undoubtedly be forced to meet.

Mr Bongo finally recalled that he was one of the main architects of the French-Chadian rapprochement. The meeting in Libreville between Goukouni Oueddei and Guy Penne was arranged by me, he said. France has a duty toward Chad. It must actively participate in its reconstruction, Mr Bongo concluded.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU SACKS FORMER PRIME MINISTER FROM MPR BODY

AB212138 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 21 Sep (AFP)--Zairian leader General Mobutu Sese Seko today sacked former Premier Ileo Songo Amba from the Central Committee of the Ruling People's Revolutionary Movement.

Mr Ileo was prime minister of the second Zairian Government after Patrice Lumumba, former president of the Senate after independence from Belgium and former president of the National Legislative Council.

BENINZERBO DEPARTS AFTER VISIT; COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

AB201039 Paris AFP in French 1259 GMT 19 Sep 81

[Text] Cotonou, 19 Sep (AFP)--The president of Upper Volta, Col Saye Zerbo, today ended his 2-day friendly and working visit to Benin. During the visit, he held several rounds of talks with his Beninese counterpart, President Mathieu Kerekou. Their discussions were held in an atmosphere of fraternity, friendship and mutual understanding.

According to the final communique issued after their last round of talks held today, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the excellence of the fraternal relations based on the principles of good-neighborliness and cooperation which have always existed between the two countries.

The communique explains that they also made a detailed analysis of all the issues bearing on cooperation and then took measures aimed at giving further expression to the excellent relations existing between their two countries.

Touching on the issues of the subregion, the two heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in the establishment of the ECOWAS and also reaffirmed their desire to do everything possible to help this community realize its objectives.

Concerning the situation in the northwestern part of Africa, the two heads of state welcomed with satisfaction the recommendations of the OAU Implementation Committee on Western Sahara which were adopted in Nairobi last June. They were convinced that only the implementation of these recommendations can help restore a just and lasting peace in the region.

After condemning racist South Africa's continued aggression against the frontline states, including Angola, the two presidents expressed their support for SWAPO which is fighting for the independence of Namibia. They equally expressed their support of the Palestinian people and asked for the evacuation of occupied Arab territories.

LIBERIATRAVEL BAN ON FORMER POLITICAL DETAINEES LIFTED

AB210812 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] The PRC [People's Redemption Council] has lifted the ban imposed on former political detainees wishing to travel out of the country. The ban on traveling was imposed following the April 12 Revolution and has since been in force.

Before the ban was lifted, those former political detainees wishing to travel out of Liberia had to first get the approval of the PRC. According to an Executive Mansion release, the decision to allow free movement of those released from jail was reached during the weekend at a PRC meeting presided over by Head of State and Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe. The release quoted Head of State Doe as saying, "This action is consistent with the government's determination to create a greater atmosphere of freedom and justice for all Liberians."

NIGERKOUNTCHE RETURNS TO NIAMEY, MAKES STATEMENT

AB180232 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 18 Sep 81

[Excerpts] The president of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche, returned to Niamey this afternoon. He arrived from Yamoussoukro in the Ivory Coast where a summit of the heads of state of the five member countries of the Entente Council was held. In a press conference on his arrival at the airport, the head of state spoke about this family reunion, the Cancun summit conference as well as the official visit tomorrow of the Upper Voltan head of state to our country.

[Begin recording] Considering the schedule of each head of state, we think we will be able to hold a summit in early 1982. For practical reasons, and also for reasons of courtesy and respect for elders, the formula has always been--irrespective of the head of state holding the post of current chairman of the council--to hold the summit in Yamoussoukro. That is where the doyen is. [end recording]

TOGO

EYADEMA RECEIVES FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY

AB211339 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Text] The president of the republic and founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, granted an audience yesterday morning at the Presidential Palace to Guy Penne, adviser to the French president on African and Malagasy affairs. Mr Penne, who arrived in our capital early yesterday, disclosed that he was bearer of a message from the French president, Mr Mitterrand, to his Togolese counterpart, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema.

At Tokoin Airport, Mr Penne was welcomed by Akakpo-Ahianyo and Gbegnon Amegoh, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and minister delegate to the presidency in charge of information, posts and telecommunications. Before leaving the airport for the city, Mr Penne said when the French president was a candidate he had urged Socialists practising national solidarity to intensify solidarity at the international level. Mr Penne said France [word indistinct] has decided to increase its gross domestic product [GDP] share to the Third World countries. This, he said, was a tremendous effort because France has serious economic problems, but it had decided to increase its GDP share substantially and therefore, Togo, like the other countries, should benefit from it.

The adviser to the French president added that what the French wanted was that the effort being made by them should [word indistinct] not only with the international organization and countries with which France maintains relations so that all the least developed countries may benefit from the aid of slightly richer countries even though the latter may be experiencing difficulties.

SENEGAL

ARRESTS OF 28 OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS REVEALED

AB211826 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Dakar, 21 Sep (AFP)--Senegalese police investigating activities against the state have arrested 28 members of the centre-left opposition Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), party sources said here today. PDA Member of Parliament Boubacar Sall said that eight were still in custody, and three were to be prosecuted for resisting the police. He denied that any weapons had been found by the security forces.

The results of the police operation, which included searches at the homes of party members in an attempt to discover weapons or documents proving that the PDS was financed from abroad, had not been officially stated today. The Justice Ministry said the arrests followed serious revelations by Amadou Fall, a party steward, who has been accused of involvement in a fraud case. Observers speculated that the revelations could be linked with a recent trip by PDA Secretary-General Abdoulaye Wade to Libya.

Party leaders accuse the government of President Abdou Diouf, which last May launched its plan to legalise all political parties, of wanting to liquidate the PDA. Other opposition party leaders look on the move against the PDS as a warning to them, but predict that it could rebound by enabling the party to win sympathy by claiming it is being persecuted.

(Meanwhile, in Paris Mr Wade denied that the PDS was involved in a plot, saying that it always envisaged taking power by democratic means. He denied that Mr Fall was ever a member of the PDS and said the government was using his revelations as a pretext for action against the party.)

NAMIBIA

NUJOMA: NO CHANGE TO UN RESOLUTION 435 ACCEPTABLE

LD202217 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0930 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Excerpt] Cabuta (Cuanza-Sul) 19 Sep (ANGOP)--"SWAPO will not accept any alteration of UN Resolution 435." This was stated on Friday by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma addressing journalists on a visit to SWAPO's educational center in Cabuta, municipality of Libolo.

At a political meeting with Namibian refugees also held there, Sam Nujoma further stated that the current South African aggression against Angola is aimed at preventing Angola from supporting his movement, and that it should be seen as a result of the "stopping up of the armed struggle by SWAPO fighters inside Namibia."

He specified that in the last few months the fighters of PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] SWAPO's armed wing, have inflicted heavy casualties on the racist troops in the various fronts opened inside occupied Namibia.

He described as false the South African claims to the effect that SWAPO's struggle is carried out from the countries bordering Namibia. "South Africa," Nujoma stated, "cannot deceive the world. The struggle for the liberation of Namibia emerged and developed inside Namibia itself; it did not start in Angola, Zambia or Zimbabwe."

He also refuted what he described as lies spread by the Pretoria authorities seeking to convince the world that Cuban and Soviet troops are fighting side by side with SWAPO forces. "The Pretoria regime will not be destroyed by troops from abroad but by the forces fighting colonialism, racism and fascism inside Namibia," he added.

Nujoma stressed the international support received by SWAPO at a time when the South African occupiers are facing international isolation to an unprecedented degree, as was evident at the recent special United Nations General Assembly session on Namibia. As is known, 117 UN member countries condemned the South African incursions into Angola and demanded sanctions against the RSA. "The struggle of the Namibian people is supported by the entire international community with the exception of the Reagan administration," he added.

According to Nujoma, SWAPO will never allow power to be handed over to the puppet parties that the South Africans are trying to establish in Namibia. "They will all be annihilated, including the puppets that the South Africans want to put forward as valid interlocutors. The struggle will continue until we have hoisted the SWAPO flag in Windhoek."

ZIMBABWEMUGABE-LED DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR SCANDINAVIA

CA211114 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Sep 81

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, and his delegation flew out of Salisbury Airport last night for a week-long visit to Scandinavia. A large crowd, including government and party officials and members of the diplomatic corps, gave them a rousing sendoff. Comrade Mugabe was accompanied by his wife, Comrade Makoni of industry and energy development. The prime minister is also accompanied by the permanent secretary for foreign affairs and other senior government officials.

Comrade Mugabe and the delegation are scheduled to fly to Melbourne, Australia, for the opening of the commonwealth heads of government conference on 30 September.